PRICE ONE PENNY.

The Sydney Morning Herald.

No. 18,339. | Registered at the General Post Office, Sydney, for transmission by post as a Newspaper.

SYDNEY, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25, 1896.

PRICE 1d.

Births.

ALLDIS.—December 20, at her residence, "Molong," Leichhardt-street, Waverley, the wife of John W. Alldis, of a daughter (Fernie).

BREDEN.—December 19, at her residence, Commercial Bank, Cobar, the wife of R. O. Breden, of a son.

DUNSTAN.—Christmas Eve, at Hamilton Lodge, Glebe Point, the wife of the Rev. E. Tremayne Dunstan, of a daughter.

SOUTHWELL.—December 3, 1896, at her residence, the wife of W. Southwell, of a daughter.

WISEMAN.—December 8, at her residence, 133 Paddington-street, Paddington, the wife of R. B. Wiseman, of a son.

Marriages.

BRIGHT—GARRICK.—On the 18th instant at St. Stephen's, Gloucester-road, S.W., by the Rev. Edward Manners Sanderson, vicar of Huyton, Lancashire (cousin of the bridegroom), Charles Henry Manners Sutton Bright, second son of Mr. and the Hon. Mrs. Charles E. Bright, of 12 Queen's-gate-gardens, and Ada Madeline, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred C. Garrick, of 21 Upper Phillimore-gardens, and Passy, Sydney.

MELVILLE—TOD.—November 3, 1896, at Lahore, Punjab, India, Surgeon-Captain Henry Bruce Melville, I.M.S., Lucknow, to Joan Russell, second daughter of the late Andrew Tod, Mavisbank, Polton, Midlothian, Scotland.

Silver Wedding.

ARNOLD—JANES.—December 25, 1871, at St. Thomas's Church, Stepney, London E., by the Rev. James Roe, Frederick, third son of John Arnold, to Charlotte Isabella, third daughter of William Henry Janes.

Deaths.

SHARPE.—December 24, at her residence, The Briers, Perry-street, Marrickville, Gertrude Minnie, youngest of Charles and Annie Sharpe, aged 9 weeks.

In Memoriam.

HUME.—Sacred to the memory of Harriott Hume, who died 24th December, 1895, at Collingwood, Gunning. Inserted by her mother.

SHERLOCK.—In loving remembrance of William Sherlock, who died on his 60th birthday, Christmas Day, 1894. Inserted by his widow and son, Mrs. H. Sherlock and E. W. Sherlock. R.I.P.

CHRISTMAS MORNING.

LASSETTER'S

having had the most prosperous Christmas in the history of their business reciprocate the good wishes which have been so freely expressed by the general public.

PEACE TO MEN OF GOODWILL.

This is the correct translation from the Greek, and quite alters the context of the popular version.

LASSETTER'S

DAY BY DAY.

LASSETTER'S is the Oldest Mercantile Institution in Australasia, and its success is indicative of the progress of the colony. The increase or decrease, as the case may be, of business at Lassetter's is a financial barometer for New South Wales. We propose each morning, until New Year's Day, to show the increase in our business as compared with the corresponding period last year:—

BULLETIN FOR DECEMBER 24th.

Increase in Number of Parcels Despatched per Post from July 1st to December 24th	3342
Increase in Number of Packages forwarded by Passenger Train for same period	4891
Increase in Number of Packages consigned by Goods Train for same period	3656
Increase in number of Suburban deliveries for same period	9398
Increase in Volume of Business for same period ...	£47,816

WILL LASSETTER'S SHOW AN INCREASE of FIFTY THOUSAND POUNDS FOR THE HALF-YEAR!

Florists, &c.

"THERE are others," but none so popular as Searl's, 109 King-st., for Seeds, Plants, and Flowers.

EASTWAY'S ARE PREPARED FOR A CHRISTMAS TRADE. You know their lines. WIREWORK and FISHING TACKLE. We keep all things for BIRDS, FLOWERS, and FISH. The Greatest Variety and Lowest Price. EASTWAY BROTHERS, 411 George-street. Tel., 2075

Shipping.

P. AND O. COMPANY.

The Royal Mail Steamships of the above Company will be despatched as follows:—

FOR LONDON,

Touching at the usual Intermediate Ports.

Steamer.	Tons.	Commander.	Sydney, 1 p.m.	Melbourne, 1 p.m.	Adelaide, noon.
Himalaya	6898	A. W. Adamson	Jan. 4	Jan. 9	Jan. 13
Oceana	6610	E. Stewart	Jan. 18	Jan. 23	Jan. 27
Valetta	5004	G. W. Atkinson	Feb. 1	Feb. 6	Feb. 10
China	8000	F. Harris	Feb. 15	Feb. 20	Feb. 24
Massilia	5026	R. Harvey	Mar. 1	Mar. 6	Mar. 10
Arcadia	6603	A. C. Loggin	Mar. 15	Mar. 20	Mar. 24
Parramatta	6000	C. F. Preston	Mar. 29	April 3	April 7
Ballaarat	4890	T. S. Angus	April 12	April 17	April 21

And thenceforward every alternate week.

RATES OF PASSAGE MONEY:—

TO LONDON:

Single ... ... £35 to £70

Return ... ... £65 to £105

CHEAP FARES TO WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

Passage-money can be paid here for passages from England.

G. DOUGLAS MICHIE, Agent, Corner Pitt and Bridge streets.

ABERDEEN WHITE STAR LINE.

STEAM TO CAPETOWN AND LONDON.

The following magnificent steamers will leave SYDNEY for CAPETOWN, TENERIFFE, and LONDON as follows:—

Name of Steamer.	Commander.	Tons Regr.	Leaves Sydney, at 3 p.m.
AUSTRALASIAN	T. F. Spalding...	3700	Dec. 31 1897.
DAMASCUS ...	A. H. G. Douglas, R.N.R.	3700	Jan. 29
NINEVEH ...	N. Allan ...	3600	Feb. 26
THERMOPYLÆ	A. Simpson ...	3700	Mar. 28
ABERDEEN	A. T. Wills	3700	April 30

All the above have splendid accommodation, and will carry a surgeon and stewardess.

Passengers by this route to London will avoid the heat of the Red Sea.

Only 1st and 3rd class passengers carried.

No cargo received on day of sailing.

For Freight and Passage Money apply to DALGETY and COMPANY, Limited, Agents. 1 Bent-street.

FOR NATAL DIRECT and CAPE TOWN.

ABERDEEN WHITE STAR LINE.

S.S. AUSTRALASIAN,

3600 Tons Register,

T. F. SPALDING, Commander,

will leave Sydney on

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31,

taking Saloon and Third-class Passengers for both ports.

For full particulars, apply DALGETY and COMPANY, Limited, Agents, 1 Bent-street.

NORTH GERMAN LLOYD.

Passengers are carried by the IMPERIAL GERMAN MAIL STEAMERS according to the requirements of the English Passengers Acts of 1855 and 1863 to SOUTHAMPTON, ANTWERP, BREMEN, via ALBANY, COLOMBO, ADEN, SUEZ, PORT SAID, NAPLES, and GENOA.

Steamers from GENOA, NAPLES, or SOUTHAMPTON, DIRECT to NEW YORK.

Steamer.	Commander.	Tons	Leave Sydney at noon.	Leave Melbourne.	Leave Adelaide.
			1897.	1897.	1897.
Darmstadt	M. Eichel	5316	Jan. 2	Jan. 6	Jan. 9
Friedrich der Grosse	W. Reimkasten	11000	Jan. 27	Feb. 2	Feb. 6
P. R. Luitpold	H. Walter	6700	Feb. 24	March 3	March 6
Barbarossa	A. Richter	11000	Mar. 24	Mar. 31	April 3
Gera	V. Schuckmann	5319	April 21	April 28	May 1

PASSAGE MONEY FROM £14 UPWARDS. STEAMERS CALL AT ALBANY.

Special facilities are afforded for bringing out relatives and friends from Europe by prepayment of passage-money. J. MERGELL, General Agent, Exchange Corner, 68 Pitt-street.

MESSAGERIES MARITIMES.

SYDNEY TO LONDON, via COLOMBO and PARIS. Steamers of 6500 tons, under postal contract with the French Government, calling at MELBOURNE, ADELAIDE, ALBANY, COLOMBO, SUEZ, and PORT SAID, will be despatched monthly as follows:—

Steamer.	Commander.	Sydney, 4 p.m.	Melbourne, 1 p.m.	Adelaide noon.
Ville de la Ciotat	Piaschi	Dec. 29	Jan. 2	Jan. 4
Polynesien	Boulard	Jan. 27	Jan. 30	Feb. 1
Armand Behic	Poydenot	Feb. 24	Feb. 27	Mar. 1
Australien	Vimont	Mar. 24	Mar. 27	Mar. 29

PASSENGERS booked to Bombay, India, China, Batavia, and Japan.

PASSAGE MONEY, £25 to £70, including table wines.

RETURN TICKETS at REDUCED RATES.

ENGLISH SPOKEN ON BOARD.

For further particulars apply at the Company's Office, Queen's Corner, Pitt-street.

E. BLANC, Principal Agent.

FOR LONDON, HULL, and ANTWERP

The Splendid Steamship, BULUWAYO, 6000 tons, W. CLUNIE Master, will be despatched about the end of December for the above ports.

For rates of freight apply to DANGAR, GEDYE, and CO., Agents. Margaret-street.

ORIENT LINE OF ROYAL MAIL STEAMERS.

The following Royal Mail Steamships belonging to the ORIENT and PACIFIC COMPANIES will leave SYDNEY at 1 p.m. as under for LONDON (Tilbury), via Melbourne, Adelaide, Albany, Colombo (transhipping for all Indian ports), Suez Canal, Naples, and Gibraltar:—

ORIZABA ...	6297 tons	A. W. Clarke, R.N.R.	Dec.	26
OROYA ...	6297 "	E. E. Lavington	Jan.	11
*ORIENT ...	5365 "	H. E. Inskip	Jan.	25
CUZCO ...	3918 "	H. W. Livett	Feb.	8
*ORUBA ...	5552 "	Lindsay Hay	Feb.	20

And Fortnightly thereafter.

* Calling at Hobart.

PASSAGE MONEY—Single, £70 to £35. Return, £105 to £65. Third Class, from £13 13s.

Passages from London can be prepaid here.

FARES TO COLOMBO: Saloon, single, £35; return, £55. Second, single, from £25; return, from £37.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA: Saloon, £12; Second, £8; Third, £5 10s.

MANAGERS: F. GREEN and CO. and ANDERSON, ANDERSON, and CO., Fenchurch-avenue, London, E.C.

Full particulars on application to DAVID ANDERSON, General Manager in Australia. 48 Pitt-street.

NIPPON YUSEN KAISHA EXPRESS PASSENGER SERVICE between AUSTRALIA, CHINA, AND JAPAN,

calling at BRISBANE, TOWNSVILLE, THURSDAY ISLAND, HONGKONG, NAGASAKI, KOBE, AND YOKOHAMA.

The following magnificent steamers, fitted with electric light, and luxurious accommodation for first, second, and third class passengers, will be despatched from West Side Circular Quay, as under:—

TOKIO MARU ... ... 20th January

YAMASHIRO MARU ... 24th February

OMI MARU ... ... 24th March

and MONTHLY THEREAFTER.

For full information apply to BURNS, PHILP, and CO., Limited, 10 Bridge-street. Managing Agents.

THOS. COOK and SON Book Passages and Secure Berths by all Steamers for Europe, America, Capetown, &c., at lowest current rates. Excursions to New Zealand, Tasmania, Jenolan Caves, and sights of N.S.W. Office, 4 Hunter-street.

TO GREAT BRITAIN AND EUROPE.

A. and A. ROUTE.

ROYAL MAIL EXPRESS SERVICE.

Avoiding alike the heat of the Red Sea and the cold of Cape Horn.

Under contract with the Governments of New South Wales, New Zealand, and United States, the steamers of this line leave Sydney and Auckland for Apia (Samoa), Honolulu, and San Francisco every four weeks as under:—

Steamer.	Commander.	Sydney, 4 p.m.	Auckland, 2 p.m.	Arrive 'Frisco.
ALAMEDA	Van Oterendorp	Jan. 18	Jan. 23	Feb. 11
ZEALANDIA	Hayward ...	Feb. 15	Feb. 20	Mar. 11
MONOWAI	Carey	Mar. 15	Mar. 20	Apl. 8

Passengers booked to all the principal parts of EUROPE, UNITED STATES, and CANADA AT LOWEST FARES, including stop-over privileges at any point, choice of railway routes and Atlantic steamers, the fastest, finest, and largest afloat.

ROUND THE WORLD TICKETS BY ANY ROUTE. The waters of the Pacific are proverbially smooth, the weather mild and pleasant, and the ports of call frequent and interesting. The overland journey is surpassingly grand, full of novelty and variety of scenery, and the trains veritable PALACES ON WHEELS, with all the comforts of a firstclass hotel. Add to this visits to the Greatest Cities of the American Continent—Chicago, New York, &c.—and intercourse with the most enterprising and inventive people of the age. All this and more is only part of the itinerary included in ordinary through tickets, and can be accomplished without extra charge.

Full particulars, Illustrated Guide-maps, &c., gratis, on application to UNION STEAM SHIP CO. of N.Z., Ltd., 15 Bridge-street; Or Passenger Office, Moore-street, near G.P.O.

UNION STEAM SHIP COMPANY OF NEW ZEALAND, Limited, will despatch Steamers from their Wharves, Margaret and Sussex streets, as follows, weather and other circumstances permitting:—

NEW ZEALAND.

For AUCKLAND, LYTTELTON, and DUNEDIN (transhipping to outports)—

S.S. WAIHORA, WEDNESDAY, Dec. 30, at 5 p.m.

For WELLINGTON, LYTTELTON, DUNEDIN, BLUFF, HOBART, and MELBOURNE (transhipping to outports)—

S.S. TARAWERA, WEDNESDAY, December 30, at 5 p.m.

TASMANIA.

For HOBART DIRECT—S.S. OONAH, SATURDAY, December 26, 10 a.m. (See Special Advertisement.)

For LAUNCESTON and DEVONPORT, via Eden—S.S. HAUROTO, TUESDAY, January 5, at noon.

SOUTH SEA ISLANDS. (See Special Advertisement.)

For FIJI, APIA (Samoa), VAVAU, HAAPAI, and NUKUALOFA (Tonga), thence to Auckland—S.S. OVALAU, WEDNESDAY, January 13.

EASTERN PACIFIC SERVICE.

For TAHITI and RARATONGA, from AUCKLAND—S.S. TAUPO, WEDNESDAY, January 20.

NO CARGO RECEIVED WITHIN TWO HOURS BEFORE SAILING.

From MELBOURNE.

FOR NEW ZEALAND PORTS and HOBART—S.S. MANAPOURI, WEDNESDAY, December 30.

LAUNCESTON—S.S. PATEENA, EVERY FIVE DAYS. DEVONPORT, BURNIE, and STANLEY, every THURSDAY.

STRAHAN (Zeehan Silver Fields), every THURSDAY.

For full particulars apply at the Company's offices, 15 Bridge-street, or Branch Passenger Office, Moore-street, near G.P.O.

TASMANIA.

The Favourite Steamers OONAH and HAUROTO will be despatched at short intervals as under:—

S.S. OONAH, 1757 tons, TO HOBART Direct, Dec. 26, Jan. 6, 13, 20, and 27. From HOBART, Jan. 2, 9, 16, and 23.

S.S. HAUROTO, 1988 tons. To LAUNCESTON and DEVONPORT, via Eden. TUESDAY, JANUARY 5, at noon.

For further particulars apply to UNION S. S. CO., 15 Bridge-street, Branch Office, Moore-street.

THE HOULDER LINE.

FOR LONDON, VIA RIVER PLATE.

The undersigned will despatch the following Steamers of the above Line as follows:—

Steamer.	Tons.	Captain.	To Sail.
Urmston Grange	3444	J. Bennett ...	January
Southern Cross	5050	A. Child	February
Langton Grange	5850	C. S. Crichton	March
Denton Grange	5850	W. A. Williams, R.N.R.	April

These Steamers have unrivalled Accommodation for Saloon and Second-class Passengers.

Electric Light throughout.

Fitted with Refrigerating Machinery.

Doctor and Stewardess carried.

For rates of freight or passage apply to GIBBS, BRIGHT, and CO., Agents, 37 Pitt-street.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

GOLDFIELDS.

FIRST STEAMER FROM SYDNEY.

S.S. INNAMINCKA,

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, TO ALBANY AND FREMANTLE, Without Transhipment, Transhipping at Fremantle for VASSE, BUNBURY, GERALDTON, AND ALL NORTH-WESTERN PORTS.

For all particulars apply to G. S. YUILL and CO., Limited, Agents, 6 Bridge-street.

THE ADELAIDE STEAMSHIP COMPANY, Limited.

EXPRESS PASSENGER SERVICE. From GRAFTON WHARF.

MELBOURNE, PORT PIRIE, ADELAIDE, GULF PORTS of S.A.	S.S. INNAMINCKA, Thursday, December 31, at 5 p.m.
ALBANY and FREMANTLE, connecting with all North-western Ports.	S.S. INNAMINCKA, Thursday, December 31, at 5 p.m.
ESPERANCE BAY (Dundas Goldfields).	Steamer from Adelaide every Five Days.
BRISBANE, BUNDABERG, ROCKHAMPTON, MACKAY, TOWNSVILLE, Ports North to CAIRNS.	S.S. SOUTH AUSTRALIAN, Thursday, December 31.

SPECIALLY REDUCED PASSENGER RATES.

TO STOCK SHIPPERS,

FOR FREMANTLE DIRECT,

THE S.S. LA SERENA,

TUESDAY, JANUARY 5.

Taking General Cargo and Stock at LOWEST RATES OF FREIGHT.

G. S. YUILL and CO., Limited, Agents, 6 Bridge-street.

GILBEY'S DRY GIN. Cures Liver and Kidney Complaints.

CANADIAN-AUSTRALIAN R.M. LINE TO FIJI, HONOLULU, VANCOUVER, CANADA, UNITED STATES, and EUROPE, in connection with the famous CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY.

R.M.S.	Tons.	Commander.	Leave Sydney 4 p.m.
WARRIMOO	3500	W. E. White, R.N.R.	January 12
MIOWERA	3500	Chas. Wm. Hay	February 10

Thenceforward MONTHLY.

First and Second Class Accommodation unequalled.

Excellent Cuisine. Specially low through second-class rates to Europe. Cool voyage through the Tropics, stopping at Suva (Fiji Group) and Honolulu, the Paradise of the Pacific.

Passengers for Europe will find the voyage via Canada very enjoyable compared to the discomforting heat of the Red Sea and Suez Canal. The scenery over the Canadian Pacific Railway is unequalled in grandeur. Stop-over privileges allowed at the various points of interest, such as Banff (Canadian National Park), Niagara Falls, &c.

ROUND-THE-WORLD TOURS.—Exceptional privileges offered.

Railway Maps, Guide Books, rates of passage, and all other information apply to

HUDDART, PARKER, and CO., Ltd., Managing Agents. Exchange Corner, 68 Pitt-street.

HUDDART, PARKER, AND COMPANY'S LINE.

Weather and other circumstances permitting.

MELBOURNE: ELINGAMITE, THURSDAY, December 31, at 5 p.m. Electric Light installed throughout.

Hot and Cold Sea-water Baths. Promenade Deck 200ft. long.

Saloon and Fore Cabin Stewardesses Carried.

RETURN TICKET AVAILABLE FOR SIX MONTHS.

SYDNEY TO HOBART DIRECT, by the STEAMER TAMBO, SATURDAY, JANUARY 2, at noon.

WEST AUSTRALIA. See Special Advertisement.

NEWCASTLE.

The Steamers of the Company run at frequent intervals.

NEW ZEALAND.

FOR AUCKLAND, GISBORNE, NAPIER, WELLINGTON, LYTTELTON, and DUNEDIN, transhipping to outports.

S.S. ANGLIAN, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6, at 4 p.m.

S.S. TASMANIA, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20, at 4 p.m.

Return Tickets Interchangeable with Union S.S. Company.

For full particulars apply HUDDART, PARKER, and CO., Limited.

Offices: Exchange Corner, 68 Pitt-street.

Wharf: Foot Margaret-street.

WEST AUSTRALIA.

S.S. ELINGAMITE,

LEAVING SYDNEY THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31st, 5 p.m., connects with S.S. NEMESIS, LEAVING MELBOURNE for ALBANY, FREMANTLE, and GERALDTON, TUESDAY, JANUARY 5th.

LOWEST CURRENT RATES.

HUDDART, PARKER, and CO., Limited.

A. U. S. N. CO., Ltd.

The following splendid Passenger STEAMSHIPS will run

HOLIDAY TRIPS:—

SYDNEY TO MELBOURNE:

CINTRA,	MONDAY,	7 p.m.,	DECEMBER 28.
ROCKTON,	WEDNESDAY,	10 a.m.,	DECEMBER 30.
ARAMAC,	TUESDAY,	5 p.m.,	JANUARY 5.

MELBOURNE TO SYDNEY:

ROCKTON,	SATURDAY,	noon,	DECEMBER 26.
CINTRA,	SATURDAY,	noon,	JANUARY 2.
ARAMAC,	SATURDAY,		JANUARY 9.

Passengers have the privilege of returning by rail for a small additional amount.

LOWEST FARES.

BURNS, PHILP, and CO., Ltd., Agents. 10 Bridge-street.

A. U. S. N. CO., Ltd.

ROYAL MAIL COASTAL SERVICE.

From their Wharfs, Lime-street.

FOR MELBOURNE	Cintra, Monday, 7 p.m., Dec. 28; Rockton, Wednes., 10 a.m., Dec. 30
ADELAIDE	Cintra, Monday, 7 p.m., Dec. 28
ALBANY, FREMANTLE, GERALDTON	Rockton, Wednes., 10 a.m., Dec. 30 (See Special Advt. below.)
ESPERANCE BAY via Albany	Macgregor, every fortnight
BRISBANE	Eurimbla, Sat., 10 a.m., Dec. 26; Arawatta, Tuesday, noon, Dec. 29
MARYBOROUGH	Eurimbla, Sat., 10 a.m., Dec. 26
BUNDABERG	Arawatta, Tuesday, noon, Dec. 29
GLADSTONE	Eurimbla, Sat., 10 a.m., Dec. 26
ROCKHAMPTON	Eurimbla, Sat., 10 a.m., Dec. 26; Arawatta, Tuesday, noon, Dec. 29
BROADSOUND	Eurimbla, Sat., 10 a.m., Dec. 26
MACKAY, BOWEN, TOWNSVILLE, T'ville Local Ports, CAIRNS, PORT DOUGLAS, COOKTOWN	Arawatta, Tuesday, noon, Dec. 29; Cintra, Tuesday, 5 p.m., Jan. 5
TOWNSVILLE, COOKTOWN, THURSDAY ISLD., NORMANTON, BURKETOWN	Maranoa, Sat., Jan. 2.
NOUMEA, SUVA, LEVUKA (FIJI)	Birksgate, Wednesday, January 6
NEW HEBRIDES	Amur, Tuesday, January 5.

The accommodation of this Company's first-class Steamers is unequalled, and inspection is cordially invited.

LOWEST FARES and FREIGHTS.

BURNS, PHILP, and CO., Limited, Agents, 10 Bridge-street.

COOLGARDIE

AND THE

MURCHISON,

WEST AUSTRALIA.

DIRECT FROM SYDNEY.

The Favourite Passenger Steamship ROCKTON,

For MELBOURNE, ALBANY, FREMANTLE, and GERALDTON, WEDNESDAY, 10 a.m., DECEMBER 30.

LOWEST CURRENT RATES.

BURNS, PHILP, and CO., Limited, Agents, 10 Bridge-street.

A. U. S. N. CO., Ltd.

SYDNEY TO BRISBANE AND PORTS TO ROCKHAMPTON.

The comfortable passenger steamship EURIMBLA, SATURDAY, 10 a.m., December 26.

REDUCED RATES.

BURNS, PHILP, and CO., Ltd., Agents, 10 Bridge-street.

THE NEWCASTLE AND HUNTER RIVER STEAM SHIP COMPANY, Limited.

STEAM TO AND FROM NEWCASTLE DURING XMAS AND NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS.

Day.	Date.	From Sydney.	From Newcastle.
Fri.,	Dec. 25	Sydney, 11.30 p.m.	Newcastle, 11.30 p.m.
Sat.,	Dec. 26	Newcastle, 11.30 p.m.	Sydney, 11.30 p.m.
Sun.,	Dec. 27	Namoi, 11.30 p.m.	Newcastle, 11.30 p.m.
Mon.,	Dec. 28	Newcastle, 11.30 p.m.	Namoi, 11.30 p.m.
Tues.,	Dec. 29	Namoi, 11.30 p.m.	Newcastle, 11.30 p.m.
Wed.,	Dec. 30	Newcastle, 11.30 p.m.	Namoi, 11.30 p.m.
Thur.,	Dec. 31	Namoi, 11.30 p.m.	Newcastle, 11.30 p.m.
Fri.,	Jan. 1	Newcastle, 11.30 p.m.	Namoi, 11.30 p.m.
Sat.,	Jan. 2	Namoi, 11.30 p.m.	Newcastle, 11.30 p.m.
Sun.,	Jan. 3	Newcastle, 11.30 p.m.	Namoi, 11.30 p.m.

REDUCED FARES.—Tickets at the following rates will be issued until Friday, 1st January:—SINGLE SALOON, 6s; RETURN SALOON, 9s; AVAILABLE FOR TWO MONTHS FROM DATE OF ISSUE. Reserved Berth in Deck Cabin, 2s extra each way. STEERAGE, 3s each way. Booking Offices: 147 Sussex-street, Sydney, and per local agent, Newcastle.

PERISHABLES and LIVE STOCK only received and delivered on CHRISTMAS and BOXING DAY.

F. J. THOMAS, Manager.

THE NORTH COAST S. N. COMPANY, Limited. From Clarence Wharf, 3 Sussex-street—

CLARENCE RIVER.—Kallatina, To-morrow, 9 p.m.

RICHMOND RIVER.—Tomki, To-morrow, 5 p.m.

MACLEAY RIVER.—Burrawong, To-morrow, 10 a.m.

From Market Wharf, foot Market-street—

MANNING RIVER.—Coraki, To-morrow, 2 p.m.

PORT MACQUARIE.—Australian, To-morrow, 2 p.m.

NAMBUCCA RIVER (transhipping at Port Macquarie).—Australian, To-morrow, 2 p.m.

BELLINGER RIVER.—Rosedale, To-morrow, 11 p.m.

RICHARD COOKE, Secretary.

THE HOWARD SMITH LINE.

TO ALL WEST and SOUTH AUSTRALIAN, VICTORIAN, and QUEENSLAND PORTS.

FOR MELBOURNE, GEELONG	Barrabool, Tues., Dec. 29, 5 p.m. Leura, Sat., Jan. 2, 12 noon.
ADELAIDE, PORT AUGUSTA, PORT PIRIE	Leura, Sat., Jan. 2, 12 noon.
ALBANY, FREMANTLE, GERALDTON	Leura, Sat., Jan. 2, 12 noon, connects with Buninyong, leaving Melbourne, Jan. 6
BRISBANE, MARYBOROUGH, ROCKHAMPTON	Tyrian, To-morrow, Sat., 12 noon. Konoowarra, Tues., Dec. 29, 12 noon.
BUNDABERG, MACKAY, TOWNSVILLE, CAIRNS	Tyrian, To-morrow, Sat., 12 noon. Peregrine, Sat., Jan. 2, 12 noon.

Cargo for all ports received daily.

LOWEST FARES TO ALL PORTS.

RETURN TICKETS AVAILABLE for SIX MONTHS.

WM. HOWARD SMITH and SONS, Ltd. Offices: 67 York-street, between King and Barrack streets. Wharves: Foot of King-street.

BRISBANE, MARYBOROUGH, ROCKHAMPTON, BUNDABERG, MACKAY, TOWNSVILLE, CAIRNS, &c.

S.S. TYRIAN.

This favourite Passenger Steamer will leave wharf, foot of King-street, TO-MORROW, SATURDAY, 12 NOON.

Passengers and Cargo for above Ports.

SPECIAL FARES AND FREIGHTS.

WM. HOWARD SMITH and SONS, Ltd. Offices: 67 York-street. Wharves: Foot of King-street.

ILLAWARRA S. N. COMPANY WEATHER PERMITTING.

Wollongong, Kiama, Shoalhaven—Tues., Fri., Cargo only. Clyde River, Nelligen, Bateman's Bay—Thursday, 6 p.m. Ulladulla—Wednesday, noon; Thursday, 6 p.m. Merimbula, Eden—Monday, Wednesday, noon. Tathra, Pambula—Monday, Wednesday, noon. Bermagui—Monday, Wednesday, noon.

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR EXCURSIONS.

SALOON TICKETS at a SINGLE FARE for the Double Journey will be issued by this Company from 16th December, 1896, to 6th January, 1897, available for ONE MONTH from date of issue, between Sydney and the undermentioned ports, viz.:—ULLADULLA, CLYDE RIVER, BATEMAN'S BAY, BERMAGUI, TATHRA, MERIMBULA, and EDEN.

RICHMOND RIVER DIRECT. S.S. OAKLAND, TO-MORROW, SATURDAY, at NOON, from Yeager's Wharf, Pyrmont. Fare to Ballina: Saloon, 25s; Steerage, 12s 6d.

BYRON BAY, COFF'S HARBOUR, WOOLGOOLGA. The Geo. W. Nicoll Line. The fast regular S.S. WOLLUMBIN, 300 tons, MONDAY, 9 p.m., Pacific Wharf, Druitt-street.

PARRAMATTA RIVER STEAMERS AND TRAMWAY CO., LTD.

All Steamers to and from King-street Wharf (terminus of Ocean-street Cable Tram).

CHRISTMAS DAY.

Leave Sydney for all Wharfs to Gladesville.—8, 9, 10.30, 11.30 a.m.; 1, 2.30, 3.30, 5.15, 6, 6.45, 8, 9.15, 10.30 p.m.

The 1 p.m. steamer calls at all Wharfs as far as Mortlake.

Leave Sydney for all Wharfs to Ryde.—8, 9, 10.30, 11.30 a.m.; 2.30, 3.30, 5.15, 6, 6.45, 8, 9.15, 10.30 p.m.

Leave Sydney for all Wharfs to Parramatta.—9, 10.30, 11.30 a.m.; 2.30, 3.30, 6 p.m.

RETURNING—

From Parramatta Park.—8.30, 10.45, 12.10 a.m.; 2, 4.10, 5 p.m.

From Villa Maria, 10 minutes before Hunter's Hill.

From Hunter's Hill.—7.15, 8.15, 9.45, 10.10, 12 a.m.; 1.25, 2.35, 3.15, 4.30, 5.25, 6.15, 7.15, 8.35, 9.50 p.m.

HUNTER'S HILL and LANE COVE RIVER STEAMERS LEAVE

FOOT OF ERSKINE-STREET at 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, *12, 1.15, 2.15, 3.15, 4.15, 5.15, 6.15, 7.15, 8.15, 9.15, 10.15, 11.15.

FIG-TREE, HUNTER'S HILL, 7, 8, 8.30, 10, 11, 12 a.m., 1.15, 2.15, 3.15, 4.15, 5.15, 6.15, 7, 8.15, 9.15, 10.15, 11.

SUNDAYS—9, 10, 11, 12, 1 p.m., 2.15, 3.15, 4.15, 5.15, 6.15, 7.15, 8.15, 9.15, 10.15.

FIG-TREE, 8.45, 9.45, 11, 12, 1, 2.15, 3.15, 4.15, 5.15, 6.15, 7.15, 8.15, 9.15, 10.15.

* Saturdays, 12.15.

FARES.—Adults (return), 6d; children (return), 3d. Picnic Steamers and Recreation Grounds for Hire. Telephone No., 10, Hunter's Hill.

N. JOUBERT.

FOR LONDON

DEVITT and MOORE'S LINE.

The Fast and Favourite Clipper Ship

TAMAR,

2115 tons, H. N. FORBES, Master.

Splendid accommodation for a few SALOON PASSENGERS.

This Ship, having already a large quantity of cargo in store, will have prompt despatch.

For freight, &c., apply to GILCHRIST, WATT, and CO., 5 Young-street.

Wool received at Central Wharf Stores.

Musical Instruments.

W. H. PALING and CO., Ltd. Established 1853.

Sole Agents for the

FAMOUS PIANOS

STEINWAY and SONS,

RICH. LIPP and SON,

JOHN BRINSMEAD and SONS,

also for the Eminent Makers, Julius Feurich, Uebel and Lechleiter, Carl Ecke, Gors and Kallmann, and others.

OUR SPECIAL MODELS, THE VICTOR and THE BELLING, at £46 and £36 respectively, are very superior instruments, and the best value in Sydney.

ESTEY ORGANS, the Best and Cheapest.

BAND INSTRUMENTS, by Boosey and Co., Besson and Co., Couesnon and Co., and others.

LOWEST PRICES EASY TERMS.

Catalogues and Prices Post Free.

BRITISH PIANO, complete, iron frame, exceedingly choice, expensive Piano, grand tone, very handsome, durable, £25; Aucher Frere's PIANO, splendid sample, quite new, £29. JOHN L. ESTENS, 55 Flinders-street.

FIVE SHILLINGS WEEKLY.—Finest PIANOS in Australia. BEALE'S, Limited.

BEALE'S, 13 STRAND, BARGAINS IN PIANOS.

PIANOS OF ALL MAKERS. PRICES LOWEST. BEALE'S, Ld., 484 George-st.

BEALE and CO., LIMITED, 13 Strand, 484 George-st., 87 Oxford-st.

XMAS PRESENTS. PIANOS, unequalled values. Beale's, Limited.

PIANO by famous Kirkman, horizontal semi-grand, magnif. tone, £18 cash or t. Estens, 55 Flinders-st.

"PIANOS," "PIANOS," new and second-hand. Cheapest house in town. Powell, 57 Flinders-st.

GORDON'S, 379 Bourke-st., nr. Oxford.—Cheapest, best, and most reliable house for Pianos in Sydney.

PIANO Buyers, Attention! Gordon's, 379 Bourke-st., nr. Oxford, do not employ any agents or canvassers.

ELEGANT new German Pianos, just landed ex Darmstadt, new models. Gordon's, 379 Bourke-st., n. Oxf.

HIGH-CLASS Pianos, great bargains, Lipp, Ronisch, Vogel, Kaps, Ecke. Gordon's, 379 Bourke-st.

Medical, Chemicals, &c.

ABRAHAM'S PILLS,

ABRAHAM'S PILLS.

"Now, good digestion waits on appetite, and health on both."—Macbeth.

All suffering from dyspepsia, indigestion, and a thousand tortures of the stomach out of order should use ABRAHAM'S PILLS, and you have a safe cure.

Prepared only at the Laboratory, 434 GEORGE-STREET, SYDNEY, and sold everywhere at 1s, 2s, and 5s.

ASTHMA AND CATARRH, HAY FEVER OPPRESSION, NEURALGIA, &c.

ASTHMA AND CATARRH, ASTHMA AND CATARRH, ASTHMA AND CATARRH: SOLELY CURED BY ESPIC'S CIGARETTES or POWDER. TRY THEM, THEY NEVER FAIL. They are recommended by the HIGHEST MEDICAL AUTHORITIES. J. ESPIC, 20 Rue Saint-Lazare, PARIS; TAYLOR, BOURBAUD, and CO., MELBOURNE, Hosier-lane, Wholesale Agents. ALL CHEMISTS and DRUGGISTS.

DR. WESTCOTT'S AMENORRHOEA PILLS for Ladies, when taken a few days before the expected period will produce their effect to a certainty; 2s 9d and 4s 6d, post 3s and 5s. W. H. Soul and Co., Agents, 160 Pitt-st.

MITCHELL'S INSECT-DESTROYING POWDER KILLS Mosquitoes, Flies, Fleas, Bugs, and Cockroaches. Boxes, 1s 6d; Tins, 1s. Manufacturer: R. T. BELLEMEY, Chemist, 151 King-street, Sydney. May be had of all Chemists.

KEATING'S INSECT POWDER.—Bugs, Fleas, Moths, Beetles, and all other Insects are destroyed by KEATING'S INSECT POWDER, which is quite harmless to domestic animals. It is perfectly clean in application. Ask for KEATING'S POWDERS. Sold (in tins) by all chemists.

PIANOS.—Wanted to Buy, Two, one at £10, one at £20, for prompt cash. Address Piano, Box 445, G.P.O.

SILVERSTREAM, THE ONLY GENUINE SCHNAPPS.

Public Notices.

SYDNEY HOSPITAL.

I desire thankfully to acknowledge the receipt of £500, being a bequest to the institution by the late Mr. JOHN BAIRD, through GEO. H. WISE, Esq., Solicitor, of Sale, Victoria, as Executor and Trustee of the Will.

JAMES EWAN, Honorary Treasurer.

THE CITY DENTAL INSTITUTE, 108 King-street (nearly opposite Quong Tart's). A FULL SET OF TEETH FROM ONE GUINEA TO TEN GUINEAS (£1 1s to £10 10s). Upper or Lower Sets fitted by Patent Suction. Perfect Mastication. Lifelike Appearance. Most Difficult Cases Specially Invited. PAINLESS EXTRACTIONS GUARANTEED. Our valuable treatise on teeth post free on application.

DIARIES, 1897.

W. E. SMITH'S

AUSTRALIAN SHILLING

1

DIARY,

INTERLEAVED WITH BLOTTING PAPER.

Also, COMBINED CALENDAR and BLOTTING PAD, 2s.

The Largest Assortment of POCKET DIARIES in Sydney, from 6d each.

W. E. SMITH,

WHOLESALE and MANUFACTURING STATIONER, BRIDGE-STREET, SYDNEY.

INSURANCE COMPANIES.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS.

The OFFICES of all Fire and Marine Insurance Companies in the undermentioned Associations will be CLOSED on FRIDAY, 25th, and SATURDAY, 26th December.

Sydney Underwriters' Association.

Fire Underwriters' Association of N.S.W.,

J. E. WOODTHORPE, Secretary.

AUSTRALIAN MUTUAL PROVIDENT SOCIETY.

The Offices of this Society will be CLOSED on FRIDAY and SATURDAY, the 25th and 26th instant, for the Christmas holidays. Premiums, &c., falling due on those days will be received on the following Monday without fine, the risk being held covered in the meantime.

By order of the Board, ROBERT B. CAMERON, Secretary.

Head Office: 87 Pitt-street, Sydney, 23rd December, 1896.

PUBLIC NOTICE.

Mr. QUONG TART begs to notify to his numerous Friends and the Public in general that his PREMISES in KING-STREET, and all his well-known BRANCHES, will be CLOSED TO-DAY, FRIDAY, but will RE-OPEN for business TO-MORROW, SATURDAY. QUONG TART and CO., King-street.

OUR Warehouse and Offices will be CLOSED on the 25th and 26th Dec. J. B. Tickle and Son, 1 Wynyard-st.

NOTICE OF REMOVAL.

On and after the 1st January, 1897, our BUSINESS will be carried on at our new offices,

ROFE-CHAMBERS, 60 Castlereagh-street.

CHENHALL and EDDIE, Solicitors, &c.

22nd December, 1896.

CHARLES F. STOKES and CO., Newcastle.

The Business of Messrs. CHAS. F. STOKES and CO., Newcastle, will be carried on as usual by Mr. MARK MACDERMOTT, on account of the firm.

CHAS. F. STOKES and CO.

Newcastle, 23rd December, 1896.

BRANDT'S REFRIGERATOR, for keeping BUTTER, MEAT, MILK, &c., COLD.

The HOTTER the weather the COOLER it is, as the evaporation of water is greater. 6in. by 6in., 3s; 10in. x 8in., 5s; and upwards. By post, 1s extra.

BRANDT BROTHERS, Lampmakers, 236 Pitt-street, Sydney, opposite School of Arts.

THE TROCADERO CAFE

will be

CLOSED

THIS DAY,

XMAS.

ASK for POLAR REFRIGERATING PAINT.—Use this at once on your roofs or in your cellars. It will reduce the heat 20 degrees. Call and see our testimonials. H. H. GROTH and CO., Wall Paper Store, 329 George-street, near Liverpool-street.

MRS. and Mr. E. A. TURNER, of Milson's Point, wish to express their sincere THANKS for kind inquiries and sympathy, gifts of flowers, &c., during their son's severe illness, and to say that he is now in a state of convalescence.

DR. P. STANICH, Eminent Specialist, from Vienna and Germany, University Clinic for diseases of the ear, is the only theoretical and practically understands diseases of the ear in Australia; 18 years' practice in N.S. Wales. New Special Remedy for Influenza. Dr. Stanich can be consulted at 77 Elizabeth-st., near King-st., Sydney.

DRUNKENNESS cured by EUCRASY, the improved treatment and certain cure for the Liquor Habit, perfectly harmless, and can be used secretly or otherwise. The patient will voluntarily stop drinking in 2 to 5 days. Pamphlet sent free.

EUCRASY CO., 82 Hunter-street, Sydney.

"TALK IT OVER." ORANGE LILY. Cures all Female Diseases.

NO HUMBUG.

Call 26 Imperial Arcade, or send stamped addressed envelope for pamphlets.

JAS. H. ADGER, Dermatologist, treats successfully all diseases of the skin and scalp, loss of hair, premature blanching, and general cultivation and growth of the hair. Advice and Remedy 10s 6d. Next Australia Hotel, Sydney.

NOTICE.—I will NOT be RESPONSIBLE for any DEBTS contracted in my name without my written authority. EDGAR S. FREEMAN, Johnston-street, Annandale.

TOYS, suitable bazaars, Christmas fairs, just arrived. S. Harris and Co., importers, Angel-place, Pitt-st.

MR. ALFRED CROKER

DENTIST

(LATE OF MARSHALL BROTHERS),

139 ELIZABETH-STREET,

three doors from Market-street.

WEEKS WHITE'S Bread Factories. Address—Newtown and Waterloo. Telephone, 18 Newtown.

SILVERSTREAM SCHNAPPS Leads all other Brands for Quality.

XMAS DAY.—Thousands of families drinking our 1s per lb. Tea. China-Ceylon Tea Co., 189 Geo.-st. W.

Religious Announcements.

THE CLERGY WIDOWS and ORPHANS' FUND FOR THE DIOCESE OF SYDNEY.

TO-DAY (Christmas Day) COLLECTIONS will be made in the Cathedral and in most of the Anglican Churches on behalf of the Fund.

The Fund is at present paying Pensions to Eleven Widows and Three Orphans. The sum of £5021 14s 3d has, since its formation, been paid as pensions to Widows and Orphans of deceased Clergy. Subscriptions and donations are earnestly invited from the laity.

W. BLAIR, Secretary.

Anglican-chambers, 176 Pitt-street.

ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, REDFERN.—Christmas Day, 1896.—In commemoration of the nineteenth hundredth birthday of the Redeemer. Services, 7.45 a.m., 11 a.m., and 7.30 p.m. (Carol Service).

Preacher, Rev. P. P. BOYCE.

ST. MARK'S, DARLING POINT. CHRISTMAS DAY.

Holy Communion, 8 a.m.

Matins (Non-Choral), 10 a.m.

Choral Eucharist, Sermon, and Procession, 11 a.m.

Carol Service, 7.45 p.m.

ST. Simon and St. Jude's, Campbell-st., S.H.—11, Communion (o.v.). Comn. Rev. J. G. Southby.

ST. Matthew's Church, Bondi.—Xmas Day, 8 a.m., Holy Communion; 11 a.m., preacher, Rev. J. Best.

ALL SAINTS', WOOLLAHRA.—CHRISTMAS DAY: H. C., 8 a.m. and Midday. Preachers: 11 a.m., Rev. R. K. Collinson; 7.30 p.m., Rev. H. W. Mort. Collection for Clergy Widows' and Orphans' Fund.

S. THOMAS', BALMAIN.—8 a.m., 11 a.m., and 7.30 p.m., Rev. JOHN DIXON.

PITT-STREET CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.—Rev. E. Tremayne Dunstan. This Xmas Morning at 11. Bright Hymns and Carols by a large choir. Collection for Children's Hospital, Glebe.

BURWOOD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH. Christmas Day, Divine Service, 11 o'clock.

GLEBE Congregational Church.—Rev. E. Adams. Service, Christmas morning, at 11. Special Hymns, Anthems.

TRINITY Congregational Church, Strathfield.—Divine Service, Christmas Day, 11 a.m., Rev. G. Littlemore.

MARRICKVILLE CONG. CH.—Dr. Roseby, 8. Evg. Events and Lessons of 1896.

ABBOTSFORD MISSION HALL.—The DEDICATORY SERVICE, CHRISTMAS DAY, at 11 a.m., conducted by Rev. S. T. DICKINSON. All are welcome.

CENTENARY HALL.—CHRISTMAS DAY, 11. Choral Service. Brief Address, Rev. W. WOOLLS RUTLEDGE. Carols, Anthems, &c. Choir, Orchestra. Visitors invited.

AT the People's Hall, 403 Sussex-st., TO-NIGHT, 8, Spec. serv. Addrs. Mr. G. E. Ardill, Mrs. Caradus.

ANNUAL Christmas Festival, Burton-st. Tabernacle, To-night. Solos, choruses, &c. Commence 7.45. 6d.

VISITORS TO SYDNEY.

You are cordially invited to give us a look in before you return home, just to ask for our NEW PRICE LIST, and be shown, if you so desire, some of the Drapery Items and MEN'S and BOYS' CLOTHING, which, without boasting, we say we can supply Better and Cheaper than any other Drapers in Australia.

That's saying a good deal, but thousands of country customers during 1896 have written to us to say they have proved by experience that what we advertise is Bona Fide.

If nothing else interests you just now 'tis worth your while to see what we are doing in Tailor-made Perfect-fitting

MEN'S TWEED SUITS at a POUND, A FACT! Twenty Shillings Only!

We send a Suit post free to the remotest corner of this great colony.

Better Suits at 25s, and the Best at 30s. All post free.

Please Note the Address—RIGHT OPPOSITE ST. ANDREW'S CATHEDRAL, in George-street.

Trams put you down at Bathurst-street, and nearly every 'bus passes the door.

RILEY BROTHERS,

Originators of £5 DRAPERY BALES, Carriage Paid.

Established over 30 years.

A NEW YEAR'S GIFT.

A BEAUTIFUL KEYLESS WATCH

(Sample can be seen)

GIVEN AWAY

to all those sending us an order for

£3 WORTH OF TEA £3

before the 26th of January next.

Cheque to Accompany Order.

Prices Tea. 30lb. Ceylon G. Tips; 40lb. Finest Blend; 50lb. Good Tea; 60lb. Sound Tea. £3.

We guarantee satisfaction.

We especially recommend our 40lb. for 60s, delivered at Redfern station.

Messrs. DELARUE, Jewellers, of George-street, will guarantee the Watch. It is no cheap article, and is a present fit to give anyone.

THE AMOY AND CEYLON TEA COMPANY,

108 Pitt-street, corner Moore-street.

THOMAS RHODES, Manager.

DAVID BRAHAM and CO.

STYLISH SUMMER SUITINGS,

75 KING-STREET, SYDNEY.

Legal Notices.

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF NEW SOUTH WALES.—Probate Jurisdiction.—In the Estate of JOHN HAMILTON MOORE HENDEN, late of West Narrabri, in the colony of New South Wales, Forwarding Agent, deceased, intestate.—APPLICATION will be made after fourteen days from the publication hereof that Administration of the Estate of the abovenamed deceased may be granted to CHRISTINA M'CALLUM HENDREN, the Widow of the said deceased. Dated at Narrabri this 24th day of January, A.D. 1896. GEORGE SAMUEL EVANS DALE, Proctor for the Applicant, Maitland-street, Narrabri. By his Agent, DAVID MOSS MYERS, 28 Castlereagh-street, Sydney.

Tenders.

ARTISTS and PAINTERS.—If you want best quality Goods for Lowest Cost buy from JAMES SANDY and CO., 271 and 330 George-street.

DAMPCOURSE, pure bitumen, portable rolls, cheaper, better than import. or slate. Asphaltum Co., Druitt-st.

IN THE ESTATE of WILLIAM SYDNEY PREDDEY, WILLIAM SYDNEY PREDDEY THE YOUNGER, and GEORGE FREDERICK PREDDEY, trading as W. S. PREDDEY, OF ERSKINE-STREET, SYDNEY, and NAMBUCCA HEADS, SAWMILL PROPRIETORS AND TIMBER MERCHANTS.

TENDERS are hereby invited and will be received up to THURSDAY, the 14th JANUARY, 1896, for the Purchase of the following ASSETS herein, viz.:—

1. The Official Assignee's Right, Title, and Interest in and to the Lease of the Premises, Erskine-street, Sydney, with all the Machinery and Appliances of a Well-equipped Sawmill. This lease commenced on the 1st January, 1896, with a currency of 15 years, at a rental of £250 per annum for the first 5 years, £275 per annum for the second 5 years, and £300 for the last 5 years. Tenant to pay taxes. A Shop fronting Erskine-street is sublet to a weekly tenant at 25s per week. The Lease and an Inventory of the Machinery can be inspected at my office.
2. The Official Assignee's Right, Title, and Interest in and to 10 Acres of Land at Nambucca Heads, held under Special Lease from the Crown, subject to a rental of £10 per annum, with Sawmill and Buildings erected thereon. The Mill consists of a 25-h.p. Engine and Boiler, Frame and Saw Bench, Planing Machine and call the Accessories of a Country Sawmill, Steam Punt with 10-h.p. Engine and Boiler in good order, Blacksmith's Shop with Bellows, Anvil, and the necessary Tools, Draught Horse, Slip and Ways complete with Blocks and Wire Rope, Building used as General Store and Workmen's Dwellings, &c., &c., &c.
3. Stock-in-Trade of General Store at Nambucca Heads, valued at £180.
4. Hardwood Logs at Nambucca Mill, containing about 30,000 superficial feet (more or less) girth measurement.

Tenders will be received jointly or separately for the foregoing lots.

A deposit of 10 per cent. must accompany each tender.

The highest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

The fullest information can be obtained at my office. The Machinery at Erskine-street can be inspected upon application to Mr. F. E. M'LEAN, and the property at Nambucca upon application to my Agent in charge there.

TERMS, CASH.

LANCELOT T. LLOYD, Official Assignee.

127 Phillip-street, Sydney, 24th December, 1896.

TO CONTRACTORS AND OTHERS.

WARROO DIVISIONAL BOARD, SURAT, QUEENSLAND.

Separate TENDERS will be received at the Board Office, Surat, until the 2nd day of March next, for the Building of the following Bridges, viz.:—

No. 1. At Wallumbilla Creek, on the Surat-Yeulba road, 16 miles from Surat, Queensland.

No. 2. At Horse Creek, on the Surat-St. George road, 3 miles from Surat, Queensland.

No. 3. At Weribone Creek, on the Surat-St. George road, 12 miles from Surat, Queensland.

Plan, Specifications, and conditions may be seen at this office and at the following offices in Queensland: Darling Downs Gazette, Queenslander, and at the Board Office.

JOHN NASON, Clerk.

Surat, December 7, 1896.

TO FURNITURE DEALERS AND OTHERS.

In consequence of relinquishing their FURNITURE DEPARTMENT, Messrs. S. HOFFNUNG and CO. are prepared to receive

TENDERS

for the Balance of their Stock of Imported Furniture, Frames, and Materials now on view at 11 O'Connell-street, in the Premises formerly occupied by Messrs. Newton and Lamb.

Lists can be inspected and all information obtained at above address on Wednesday, the 23rd instant, and tenders will be received until noon on

WEDNESDAY, the 30th instant,

by

S. HOFFNUNG and CO.,

165 Pitt-street.

December 21st, 1896.

TO CONTRACTORS, QUARRYMEN, MASONS, and OTHERS.

TENDERS are invited, and will be received up till THURSDAY, the 7th January, for lengthening the present Dock at Mort's Bay, Balmain, to 640ft., and for forming caisson entrance.

Plans and Specification to be seen at the works of Mort's Dock and Engineering Co., Limited, Balmain, Sydney.

The lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

TO CONTRACTORS AND OTHERS.

TENDERS are invited by the Trustees of Hyde, Phillip, and Cook Parks for the privilege of Depasturing Six Horses in Phillip and Cook Parks for the year 1897.

Further particulars can be obtained on application to Mr. Charles Robbie, the Superintendent of the Parks.

Tenders to be sent in to the undersigned on or before the 30th December.

W. H. CATLETT, Secretary to Trust.

TENDERS will be received until WEDNESDAY, 6th January, 1897, for the Erection of Six Shops in Goulburn-street, Sydney.

Plans and specifications may be seen at my office, Bell's-chambers, 131 Pitt-street.

ALBERT BOND, Architect.

G. E. CRANE and SONS, Manufacturers of Marble Mantelpieces and Marble Work of all kinds, Slate Nosings, Sheet Lead and Pipe, Patent Metal Ceilings, Guttering, Tanks, &c. Showrooms and Stores, 19 to 31 Pitt-st.

Meetings.

DR. HODGSON'S FREE LECTURE on PLAGUE, its history, symptoms, treatment, prevention. Is Australia in Danger? Description Plague of London. School of Arts, 8 o'clock, TUESDAY, 5th January.

IRISH NATIONAL FORESTERS' BENEFIT SOCIETY, John Mitchel Branch No. 2, Redfern. The MEMBERS of the above are requested to MEET at the Australian Eleven Hotel at 8.30 TO-MORROW MORNING, to take part in Friendly Societies' Demonstration. J. SWEENEY, C. RANGER.

MERRY XMAS

AND

MANY THANKS.

ANTHONY HORDERN AND SONS,

UNIVERSAL PROVIDERS,

HAYMARKET (ONLY).

Stock, Shares, and Money.

AUSTRALIAN MUTUAL PROVIDENT SOCIETY.

LOANS ON MORTGAGE of Freehold or Leasehold Properties for a FIXED TERM of years, or redeemable by instalments.

AT LOWEST CURRENT RATES.

RICHARD TEECE, General Manager. ROBERT B. CAMERON, Secretary.

Head Office: 87 Pitt-street, Sydney.

NO LOAN OFFICE.

To those who are harassed by MONEY LENDERS. WHY PAY HIGH RATES OF INTEREST?

F. LEE will lend you small or large sums, WITH OR WITHOUT SECURITY, AT ONCE, on easy terms. All business strictly private. Correspondence invited. Personal interviews, 6 to 9 in the evening.

245 CROWN-STREET, 3 DOORS OFF OXFORD-ST.

I NEVER REFUSE

AN ADVANCE OF MONEY to any responsible person. Any business transacted guaranteed strictly private.

HENRY TAIT, 111 Elizabeth-street, near Market-street.

MONEY LENT WITHOUT FEES OF ANY DESCRIPTION.

IN A FEW HOURS Advances can be made to any respectable Person upon Household Furniture, Pianos, Horses and Vehicles (without pos.), or any tangible security.

I am the ACTUAL LENDER, employ no Agents, and I TRADE in my OWN NAME. Existing Loans paid off, and repayments to suit borrower's convenience.

J. PHILLIPS, 118, 120 Market-street, city.

TO ASSIST, NOT TO CRUSH.

I lend money to any respectable person on Furniture or any security, without pos. NO LOAN OFFICE TACTICS. Loans granted in 3 hours. If you study your own convenience you will see me before going elsewhere. I LEND MY OWN MONEY. Every evening, 6 till 9.

308 BOURKE-STREET, SURRY HILLS, near Oxford-street.

TO BORROWERS.—A FALL IN THE RATE OF INTEREST.—I can advance MONEY Privately on FURNITURE at half the rate of INTEREST CHARGED BY MONEY-LENDERS on Property Deeds, P. Notes, &c., from 4½ PER CENT. per annum.

FINANCIER, 71 Castlereagh-street, Redfern.

Can be interviewed at any time during the DAY, and FROM 6.30 to 9 any EVENING.

THE ADVERTISER, having a considerable Capital at his disposal, is prepared to make immediate CASH ADVANCES at an extremely LOW RATE OF INTEREST on all descriptions of securities without the necessity of Bill of Sale or any publicity whatever.

Loans may be repaid as under:—

Loan of £100, repayable by monthly instalments of £2 5s.

Loan of £50, repayable by monthly instalments of £1 10s.

Loan of £20, repayable by monthly instalments of £1.

Loan of £10, repayable by monthly instalments of 10s.

Also, £20,000 Trust Funds at LOWEST CURRENT RATES on City or Country Properties for 3 or 5 years.

All communications strictly private.

Confidence, Box 283, General Post Office.

SMALL LOANS from £5 to £50 immediately granted by us, the ACTUAL LENDERS, quite privately to LADIES or GENTLEMEN on Promissory Notes alone or Combined with Security. Repayments by instalments or otherwise. Call or write. R. S. NELSON and CALLAN, 318 George-street (over Freeman's).

A GENTLEMAN has £20,000 for disposal at low rates of interest. Money advanced from £3 upward on furniture, &c.; repayments to suit borrowers; no publicity. Money advanced on reversionary interests under wills or any security. Distance no object.

Mr. BRADLY, 373 Crown-street, Surry Hills.

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LOST, Blue-street, North Shore, Wednesday, POCKET-BOOK, with Cheque (£3 4s) signed Greenwood; payment stopped. Reward. WARBURTON and SONS, North Sydney.

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A VICTORY WEB PRINTING AND FOLDING MACHINE, in first-class condition. Will print and fold a sheet 37 x 51 inches. Included with the machine are a set of new gear wheels, two roller moulds complete, one casting box; one chipping horse, and a set and half of roller stocks.

A DAWSON AND SONS' WHARFEDALE TWO-FEEDER PRINTING MACHINE.

It will print a sheet from 51 x 37 in. up to 56 x 42 in., at a speed of 2000 per hour, and is at present being used for the illustrated portion of the SYDNEY MAIL. With the machine are two roller moulds and two sets of roller stocks. It may also be worked as a single feeder. A 3 h.p. engine is sufficient to drive it. It can be delivered early next year, when it will be replaced by a new perfecting machine specially constructed for the more rapid production of the highest style of pictorial work.

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LEFT-OFF CLOTHING BUYERS. Mr. and Mrs. BARNETT give Extreme Value for Ladies', Gentlemen's, Children's Left-off Clothing, Portmanteaus, Old Gold, Silver, Artificial Teeth. Articles of every description bought. Letters punctually attended to by Mr. or Mrs. BARNETT, 124 Bathurst-street.

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THE LATEST AND MOST FASHIONABLE NOVELTIES IN
MEN'S MERCERY.
OUR LOWEST-PRICED LINE IS PERHAPS HATS.
HARD FELT HATS FOR 4s 6d.

WE THINK THESE ARE THE NICEST HATS EVER OFFERED FOR THE MONEY, AND AN EARLY INSPECTION IS NECESSARY, AS, ALTHOUGH WE HAVE A LARGE SUPPLY, THEY CAN'T LAST LONG.

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THESE HAVE BEEN SPECIALLY IMPORTED FROM LONDON. THEY COMPRISE ALL STYLES, COLOURS, AND TEXTURES FROM PURE WOOL TO THE USUAL AND FAVOURITE SILK AND WOOL MIXTURE.
IT IS QUITE ASTONISHING HOW THE FASHION IN NECKTIES AND SCARVES CHANGES. WE ARE NEARLY AS BAD AS THE LADIES IN THIS RESPECT. WE ARE SHOWING

FASHIONABLE NOVELTIES IN GENTLEMEN'S SCARVES,

AND HOLD A VERY LARGE AND ASSORTED STOCK.
IT IS SCARCELY NECESSARY FOR US TO SAY ANYTHING IN PARTICULAR ON THE SUBJECT OF
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EVERYBODY SELLS WHITE SHIRTS, AND PRETTY NEARLY EVERYBODY SEEMS TO WEAR THEM. WE HAVE MADE QUITE A REPUTATION FOR THEM, AND GENTLEMEN CAN CONFIDENTLY PURCHASE WITH THE ASSURANCE THAT THEY WILL GET, ALONG WITH GOOD VALUE FOR THEIR MONEY,

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WE DON'T KEEP SHODDY STUFF. ALL OUR STOCK COMPRISES WHAT IS LATEST AND BEST FROM THE FASHIONABLE CENTRES OF EUROPE.
CALL AND SEE US AND JUDGE FOR YOURSELVES.

THE STRAND MERCERY BAZAAR.
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NEW YEAR CARDS. NEW YEAR CARDS.
CALENDARS AND BOOKLETS.
DYMOCK'S SPECIAL SHIPMENT.
ON VIEW MONDAY. ON VIEW MONDAY.
LOWEST PRICES. THOUSANDS TO SELECT FROM. LOWEST PRICES.
DYMOCK'S BOOK ARCADE,
428 GEORGE-STREET.

GREAT FIRE IN THE WEST END.

ST. GEORGE'S, HANOVER-SQUARE, PARTIALLY DESTROYED.

Great excitement was created in the West-end of London on the night of 18th November shortly before 11 o'clock, by the rapid circulation of a report, which proved true, that the famous Church of St. George's, Hanover-square, was in flames. At the time mentioned (says the *Daily News*) passers-by in the square noticed that there was a strange glare in the tower, and before the alarm could be raised there was a tremendous burst of flames, and it was seen that the tower was enveloped in flames. Cabmen and messengers on foot instantly went in different directions to give the alarm to the firemen, and the fire-alarms in St. George's-square, in Bond-street, and in Marylebone-lane were pulled, with the result that engines from the West-end district headquarters in East-street, Manchester-square, from Great Marlborough-street, Scotland-yard, and Theobalds-road, Holborn, were soon on the scene. The fire made rapid headway, having material of the most inflammable kind to feed upon, and the flames were blazing high in the air and were roaring and crackling with tremendous strength at a quarter past 11 o'clock. Tremendous crowds assembled and cheered the firemen as they drove up from the different stations and commenced to bring their appliances into play. At first a hydrant, with a splendid stream of water, was directed on the flames, while the steamers were ordered to get into operation as they arrived, but the water for some time seemed to have no effect whatever. The woodwork of the interior of the church, dry with age, took fire like tinder, and the firemen found the embarrassments of their work added to every moment. Superintendent T. Smith, who had early arrived on the scene from his district headquarters, placed his men with branches at every point of vantage, and strained every effort to cope with the conflagration, but the position of affairs became worse every minute, and at half-past 11 the fire was lighting up the entire West-end of London. Commander Wells, early apprised of the serious character of the outbreak, ordered the other districts of London to send on help. *He went on* to the fire himself accompanied by the second officer, Mr. S. G. Gamble, and when he arrived in Hanover-square the fire was at its height, and it was obvious that the far-famed place of worship was doomed to practical destruction. At the same time the scene was a very picturesque one, for the blazing wood threw up myriads of sparks, and the light of the fire upon a fine starlit sky presented a magnificent spectacle. The police had difficulty in keeping the enormous crowds from unduly interfering with the work of the firemen, and the traffic in Regent-street, New and Old Bond streets, and the surrounding thoroughfares was almost entirely blocked for the nonce. A large number of engines had gathered at the scene at a quarter to 12, and steamers were still busily engaged in throwing water on the fire. The crowd increased in numbers every moment, and many well-known members of the aristocracy as well as of both Houses of Parliament watched the scene with keen interest. The efforts of the brigade, however, were practically futile, and the tower of the church was destroyed, while the remainder of the edifice was badly damaged. Soon after midnight the official "stop" message was circulated as follows:—"Stop for St. George's Church, St. George's-street, Hanover-square; the belfry and back part of the organ loft severely damaged by fire; five steamers and one hydrant at work."

The Exchange Telegraph Company states that the body of the church was not injured by fire, but water had done a considerable amount of damage. The fire originated in the belfry, the cause being the fusion of electric wires. The structural part of the building is not injured. Half an hour after midnight the brigade had succeeded in their efforts.

INCOME TAX MUDDLE

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD.

Sir,—I give you another instance of the careless and blundering methods of the income tax office. On receiving my income tax assessment, I found I was assessed on a considerably higher amount than that given in the schedule I sent in. I wrote for an explanation, and the Commissioners replied, saying they had reduced their assessment, and enclosing an amended notice for the correct amount, which I paid, and I hold their receipt. This morning I received another "amended notice," demanding payment of an amount which does not exactly represent the difference between the amount I paid on the first "amended notice" and the amount I was first called on to pay, though it is evidently intended that it should. There is a clerical error in addition to the demand for payment on first notice, after they had sent me a notice for a reduced amount, accepted the reduced amount, and given a clean receipt. To cap it, the following memo. is added to the notice I have now received:—"As the tax herein referred to was not paid before the 25th August *owing to your default* (the italics are mine), you are required to pay in addition to the tax a fine of 10 per cent., which must be paid at the same time as the tax." It may interest taxpayers who have had their assessments officially reduced by the Commissioners on appeal to know that the original amount may subsequently be demanded, with 10 per cent. fine added. It is too bad of the Commissioners to continue in this blundering slipshod way to give people additional trouble and annoyance.

Dec. 23. I am, &c., INDIGNANT.

REOPENING OF PUBLICHOUSES ON SUNDAY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD.

Sir,—Referring to the letter of Mr. F. B. Boyce in your issue of this day upon the above subject, I should be glad, as one who has had a long and practical experience of these matters, to be accorded the opportunity to reply to Mr. Boyce's ex parte statements. I will take his remarks *seriatim*.

The initial statement is that Mr. Copeland's bill would "inflict a great wrong." How? Upon whom? He thinks it a terrible thing that publicans should be allowed to open in the dinner hour as well as certain hours in the evening. Ordinary people, not gifted with the teetotal mind, would imagine it was a benefit to the working people to be able to obtain their dinner beer fresh, as they do in England, and not have to keep it overnight in unsuitable vessels and places, with the result that it is flat, stale, and unprofitable, if kept till the Sunday, or conducive to drunkenness, if consumed, as it too often is, on the Saturday night—thereby helping to swell Mr. Boyce's statistics of Saturday night drunkenness. He laments over the departed peace and restfulness of Sunday nights should this iniquitous bill become law, and draws a thrilling picture of "riot and disorder," "bloodshed," "grief and disgrace" to thousands of homes, all of which would be the direct and immediate consequence of the passing of the bill. To which, the average man simply says "Nonsense," and calls it the mere imagination of a partisan who sees nothing but evil in anything connected with the liquor trade.

Statistics can, of course, be made to prove anything if properly handled, and teetotal orators and writers are not the least skilful in the art of presenting figures in either the most alluring or horrifying aspect, as the case may be. Let me give, therefore, some Parliamentary statistics, made in England, and just to hand in the English papers by last mail. These statistics show (and they are not made up for partisan purposes) that there is a substantial decrease in the number of cases of drunkenness dealt with by the police in England and Wales. The number of convictions for drunkenness on Sunday was 11,230, as compared with 11,526 in 1894, and the total convictions for the offence at any other time were 128,834, as against 135,789 in the previous year, and this in a country where they allow licensed houses to be open from 1 to 3 and from 6 to 11 on Sundays, besides permitting publicans to serve travellers at any hour.

Here in all the colonies, not only in New South Wales, the Sunday closing law is far more honoured in the breach than the observance. Everyone knows it, and the publican is practically compelled to become a law-breaker or lose custom and the means of livelihood. If opening on Sunday was a "dismal failure" when tried, as according to Mr. Boyce it was, then all I can say is that the experience of the colony, or rather his own experience of it, is unique, for wherever compulsory Sunday-closing has been tried it is a distinct failure. Witness Ireland, Wales, Scotland, the United States, and the Australian colonies. Practical work and experience in a neighbouring colony justify my stigmatising it as a hollow mockery. It may please the teetotal party to think they have closed publichouses, but they have done nothing of the sort. They have, as I maintain, only intensified the evils which always result from illicit drinking. Repressive legislation generally defeats its own object, and compulsory Sunday closing is no exception to the rule.

Mr. Boyce cites the English law and appeals for a short enactment to make the present law more onerous than ever. Give limited Sunday opening, on the English lines, and then punish any infraction severely would be only right and just, and the publicans and the public could not complain if after being granted relief they abused the privilege. It should then be a punishable offence for anyone to be found on licensed premises in prohibited hours unless it was shown that he or she had good and valid reasons for being there. The insinuation against the author of the bill is, to say the least of it, in bad taste. I am not acquainted with either Mr. Copeland or Mr. Boyce, and never heard either of their names until a few days ago and have no interest in the matter beyond a desire to see fair play and to give the result of an experience of licensing law and its application and effect for the last 20 years in England and the colonies.

All decent people want to see an improvement in the habits of the people, and undoubtedly drink (or rather the drink habit) has much to answer for; but the abuse of anything is no argument against its right use, and the way to cure drunkenness is not to endeavour to prohibit drinking, for that is impossible, but to teach people to hate and despise a drunkard, to inculcate principles of real temperance and moderation, to punish drunkenness as a crime, and not to endeavour to veto the enjoyment of liquors, which at any rate in the opinion of a very large and fairly respectable and responsible body of people throughout the world, are no more harmful, properly and temperately used, than tea or coffee.

I enclose my card and I am, &c.,
C. DENSTON.
December 24.

The railway from Tunis to Susa is now complete, the section between Birbou Rokba and Enfida having been opened on the 6th November. The line from Tunis to Leghouan is in active progress, so as to be opened next summer, and a branch to Kef will follow. Preparations are likewise being made (says the *Times'* Paris correspondent) for a line from Susa to Kerouan between which there is at present only a horse tramway. All these lines have a gauge of one metre and allow of a speed of 15 miles an hour.

DOGS AND BICYCLES.

(*Spectator.*)

Dogs are already, it is said, becoming scarcer in the London streets, partly because they cannot keep up with their owners when riding bicycles, or if they do so are often overtaxed, and partly because the dogs have not yet learnt how to avoid the machines, and are constantly causing accidents. In this case, Stephenson's prophecy as to the fate of the cow on the line is reversed. It is the rider and his machine, and not the dog, who usually suffers. The dog, with every good intention, does not seem able to realise the speed of the new invention. Other animals, as appears from a letter in the *Field*, have just the same difficulty. A cyclist recently saw a hare trotting along the road towards him. The hare had no idea of the pace the "bike" was travelling, and only saved a collision by a twisting spring just as the wheel was on him, and barely cleared the pedal. Motor-cars would be warned off the roads if the dogs had a voice in legislation. One of the competitors in the race recently run in France complained that his vehicle had run over a dog, and had been delayed in consequence. This plea was not admitted, as another driver stated that his "average" was one dog a day.

It must be one of the undeserved trials of animal life that instead of being left to make the best of things as nature made them, they are always having to learn how not to be killed or frightened to death by some new contrivance of the inventing creature, man. The first new and dangerous contrivances to which dogs had to grow used were carts and carriages—*Sedan* "machines"—for the old waggons and sledges were too slow to make much difference to their safety. In countries where dogs draw carts themselves they may understand the danger of being run over naturally. Here they always have to *learn*, first, that danger exists, and next, how to avoid it, and are often far less quick to do so than are very small children. It is not till they have learnt to take care of themselves on ordinary country roads that they may be considered "grown-up." An old exciseman of our acquaintance always declared that next to the illicit makers of malt, the "taxable" puppies gave him most trouble. They were not liable to be paid for until six months old, and as there was no register of canine births, many of them never seemed to reach this age. Finally, he settled that all dogs which were allowed to "run in the road" were to be considered six months old, that being the minimum time in which a careful owner would think a puppy could learn to avoid being run over. But some dogs never learn caution, or how to "keep their heads" when carts are passing. These nearly always end by being run over. This is especially the case with spaniels, which seem least apt at learning, and to feel a kind of impulse to drift across the road just under the wheels of a passing carriage. On the other hand, there are certain breeds of dogs which have the same delight on attending a cart as certain men feel in assisting in working any piece of machinery. It is always pleasant to be able to say a good word for a discredited race of animals, and in this connection too great praise cannot be given to the now discarded "carriage dog." These spotted pointer-like dogs were generally considered as a useless breed, kept merely for show, as part of the old-fashioned parade once considered appropriate to a grand equipage. The real purpose in keeping these dogs was to serve as companions to the horses, both in the stable and during the early days of training to harness. The young horse, otherwise constantly on the look-out for objects to shy at, transferred his whole attention to his stable companion the "carriage dog," which, trotting beside him or just in front, acted as the best possible guide and example of steadiness. Always attached to the horses, the carriage dog delighted most in attending on a "pair," and used spontaneously to take and keep his place exactly between the two hind wheels, or preferably under the back of the pole. A London coachman who for years had charge of a large and beautiful stable of superb carriage horses, told the writer that a carriage-dog owned by his master invariably ran beneath the pole chains the moment the carriage started, and would make the circuit of the park several times without moving more than a few inches from his place, the three animals—two horses and the dog—moving like a machine. Curiously enough, the dog chose his particular horse to live and sleep with in the stable; when travelling and in inn stables, it mounted guard over this horse's box, and would allow no strange ostler or groom to approach it. Greyhounds also learn to run with traps. It was the custom for sporting farmers in East Anglia to drive to market with a pair of these dogs, either running with their heads just beneath the tail-board or one on either side of the cart. Their pace was a trot, step for step with the horse. The use of carts and carriages for locomotion is much more readily learnt by dogs than the art of keeping safe among traffic. Sporting dogs soon learn to like being driven to the shooting ground. When accustomed to this, they will jump up the moment the tail-board is lowered and curl up under the seat, and show great discontent if not offered a place. But nearly all are singularly dull at devising any means for safe descent when the drive is over. They usually make a violent spring to the ground, often when the cart has scarcely stopped, and fractured forelegs are a frequent result. Trains present far less difficulty to them. Though occasionally afraid of the rush and noise of the cars, they soon learn to delight in travelling by rail—if allowed to accompany their masters. They rush in the moment the door is opened, and some dogs, notably those which are accustomed to comfortable drawing-rooms and soft carpets, will always select a first-class carriage in preference to a wooden-seated "third." But though they have learnt to reckon with the speed of a carriage, and become so fond of railway travelling that "railway dogs" who travel by choice and alone are quite common—there is a "Ryde to Portsmouth" dog, too, which travels by boat and begs pennies for buns—no dog, and we believe no domesticated animal, has ever learnt to judge the speed of a train. When once on the line they seem, in this country, quite unconscious of danger. If the train is moving at the rate of from five to 12 miles an hour, they get out of the way; but a pack of hounds on a railway line, even if they are not in full cry, are always cut to pieces by the first fast train which overtakes them. The first thing which the driver does when he sees them is to shut off steam. This makes the engine noiseless, but the whole train rushes on, plainly visible, but with absolutely no terror for hounds, who seem to look on the swift, silent thing as perfectly harmless. If it were a corn waggon or a puffing traction-engine, they would get out of the way. When the short line of railway was made across the neck of the Dobrudscha, in Turkey from Kustendji to the Danube, the Turks were almost as stupid. They seemed unable to realise that the train would not stop, and would drive their sheep along the line, and one man endeavoured to stop a runaway truck by putting his foot on the rail.

Birds, perhaps from their own power of speed, more probably from their quicker brains and powers of observation, do thoroughly realise the speed of trains. Instances in which they have been killed by a passing engine are very rare, though partridges and grouse rising suddenly in front of a train often fly against the telegraph wires. That this is acquired knowledge, though probably transmitted now from generation to generation, and that birds were possibly killed by trains or incommoded by them when trains first appeared, seems evident from the following facts. The invention of the torpedo-boat destroyer raised the maximum speed obtained at sea at a jump from 25 to 31 knots. But the difference between the speed of a destroyer running her trials on the Maplin Sand, and the speed, some 10 to 15 knots, of the ocean steamers and cargo boats which commonly pass out of the Thames mouth, was from double to treble the pace to which sea birds were accustomed. One of the Thornycroft destroyers was running her trial at top speed when it disturbed a large flock of wild ducks. These, according to their invariable habit, rose at some distance ahead, and flew in a direction across the vessel's bows. They rose at what was their accustomed distance when put up by a steamer, but had wholly misjudged the speed of the destroyer. Instead of crossing 100 yards ahead the whole flock came right upon the vessel and broke up in dismay over the smoking funnels of the craft. Had she been *carrying* masts and spars the ducks would have collided with the rigging. Telegraph wires are only a permanent danger to night-flying birds and to game, which, flying fast and often frightened by shots, are constantly killed by them. But as a rule the birds native to the spot learn to avoid them. The city pigeons are seldom killed by the mazes of telegraph wire above the roofs, but a strange bird, such as a carrier pigeon let loose in the streets, is often cut to pieces. Even a single wire newly put up is very destructive until the birds have learnt caution. One recently erected near Cambridge led to the discovery of a permanent "short cut" used by migrant birds from Cambridgeshire to the Thames mouth, their bodies being discovered beneath the wire, though as they fly by night their passage had escaped observation.

The nervous fear of new inventions, which makes animals afraid where fear is unnecessary, is much sooner unlearnt than the proper degree of caution is learnt. Horses, for instance, are practically indifferent to the sight of a railway train, and cattle which had travelled by rail, as Charles Dickens early noticed in the fields north of London, very soon learnt to disregard the steam engine. But many horses which have learnt not to fear an engine, which they can see, are highly nervous when they meet a motor-car, in which the engine is out of sight, and which, therefore, appears to run by itself. The near future when motor-cars multiply has, therefore, as many trials in store for the sensitive horse as the early part of the reign had when railways were invented.

THE SYDNEY CHARITIES.

SPECIAL APPEALS FOR CHRISTMAS.

VI.

Special appeals are now being made in connection with the various charities for the purpose of supplying the poor of Sydney with extra fare at Christmas time. It is felt that when "good will towards men" prevails on every hand, those in distressed circumstances ought not to be left in want. All the institutions in our midst whose special object is the relief of those who, for the time being are unable to help themselves, are therefore doing their utmost to enable those dependent upon them to spend a "Merry Christmas." This applies not only to the asylums and those organisations formed for the purpose of dispensing charity, but also to the different churches and other bodies which at this time of the year make it a duty to seek out and relieve those in want of assistance. For some time past the Benevolent Asylum of New South Wales has been making special appeals to the public. It has been pointed out that there are in Sydney and suburbs thousands of children in need of food. A proportion of the money collected, amounting to over £1000, is spent in Christmas gifts for those who are in receipt of the society's bounty. Extra groceries are given away, larger supplies of flour and other necessaries are to be had for the asking, whilst considerably over a thousand plum puddings are distributed. In special cases, too, the giving away of small sums of money is allowed, and about £100 will be available this year. It is found that in many cases the people are able to spend the money to advantage, and therefore at Christmas this form of relief is indulged in to a larger extent than at any other time. The poor of Sydney, however, are not being left entirely to the tender mercies of the Benevolent Society. Various religious bodies are coming to their assistance. One body more in evidence than any other in this particular work is the Salvation Army. For some weeks past subscriptions have been invited, and the final arrangements in connection with the matter are now being made. It is intended to provide a Christmas dinner for the unemployed and others, who otherwise would probably go hungry, on Christmas Day. Tickets are now being distributed, and it is anticipated that about 500 guests will sit down to a thoroughly good meal. In the various homes in connection with the army special fare will be provided for the inmates. The benevolent associations in connection with the different churches are also to the front. Last year one of these bodies got a little enthusiastic, and surprised the adherents of the church by liberal gifts of poultry and other delicate things. These articles proved most acceptable, but it is hardly likely that the experiment will be repeated this year. In connection with the City Mission, the missionaries who distribute relief are allowed a little latitude, and where they see that extra provisions are necessary, the families are assisted as far as circumstances will allow. As a general rule groceries to the value of 5s are given away. A special effort is being made by the Central Methodist Mission. Charity concerts have been inaugurated, and other means of providing funds have been discovered. Help is given in special cases, where recommendation is made by the sisters in connection with the mission. In a large number of other instances arrangements are being made in connection with the churches for special donations to the poor of the different parishes. The City Night Refuge will give, as usual, a special Christmas dinner in lieu of the ordinary refreshment of soup and bread doled out to its patrons at midday. The Francis-street Night Refuge, which usually shelters about 50 men, will provide a midday meal for those who remain in the shelter over Christmas Eve. As far as the Sydney Rescue Work Society is concerned, in connection with which is incorporated the society for providing homes for neglected children, operations will be confined principally to the inmates of the institutions and to special cases which have come under notice during the last three months. The dinner to the inmates will consist of roast beef, pudding, stewed fruit, cakes, and confectionery. Christmas trees, however, will be provided at the Babies' Home, Knox-street, and at the Children's Home. It is also recognised by the workers in connection with the different charities connected with the society that a Christmas gift of some suitable article of clothing would be acceptable to the inmates, and special endeavours will be made to meet the necessary wants in this respect. Concerts and socials are being arranged for, and every endeavour is being made to make the season a "merry" one. The Charity Organisation Society acts with increased liberality at Christmas time, and many afflicted persons who are temporarily in want will receive increased assistance. Arrangements are being made in connection with the different hospitals to celebrate the occasion in a fitting manner. The institutions will be decorated with flowers and bunting, and, as far as doctors' orders will allow, the dietary scale will be augmented. At the Children's Hospital at the Glebe and at the like institution at North Shore gifts of toys will be made to the children, and as much as possible will be done to cheer them. In regard to most of these institutions ladies and gentlemen who are specially interested make a rule of coming forward each year and rendering assistance. Committees are formed, bazaars and sales of work are held, and subscriptions are canvassed from personal friends. The matrons, nurses, or guardians also do their best, and in this way excellent results are obtained. The storekeepers and wholesale houses contribute largely. They do not give money; but presents "in kind" are equally acceptable, and cakes, sweets, and other creature comforts are willingly received. A great deal of voluntary effort is forthcoming. Many ladies and gentlemen give their time most willingly, not only on Christmas Day, but also for weeks before in order to secure to the waifs and strays of humanity some enjoyment suitable to the season. The ordinary rules of the benevolent societies are, for the time being, considerably relaxed, and he would be a stranger to Sydney indeed who would go without a Christmas dinner. Inquiry shows that the different charitable bodies have been hard at work in connection with the matter for some time past and in order to see that the relief is properly administered and that their various guests are well looked after, many of the helpers will leave their own homes on Christmas Day for the purpose of attending to the wants of strangers. Even the "dead-beats," and the "vagrants" who have the ill-fortune to fall into the hands of the police, and be kept in safe custody during the Christmas holidays will not be forgotten, as missionaries in connection with the Sydney Rescue Work Society will visit all the police stations and provide the occupants with Christmas fare. So far as can be learned there is not quite as much actual destitution this year as there was last year. Less people, for instance, are living in tents on the outskirts of the suburbs. These persons will receive assistance either from the Benevolent Asylum at Redfern or from one or other of the local institutions or church missions. For those who have a little money and desire to spend it to the best advantage the various restaurants will make ample provision. Some of these places are marvels of cheapness. A three-course dinner, for instance, can be had for 3d or 4d, and a right royal repast can be procured for 6d. At Christmas time poultry is added to the bill of fare. How it can be done for the money is a mystery; but it is done, as the announcements in whitening upon many a shop window in Sydney will testify. In addition to the public charity a good deal of private almsgiving takes place at Christmas time, and altogether it may be taken for granted that, either publicly or privately, as much as possible will be done by the citizens to ensure that the deserving poor of Sydney and the suburbs spend a "Merry Christmas," and it may be also "A Happy New Year."

WOMEN FOR THE COLONIES.

The London *Times* publishes the following respecting the emigration of women to the British colonies:—"The officers of the United British Women's Emigration Association, writing from the Imperial Institute, ask the assistance of your columns to facilitate the emigration of respectable women to the colonies. *In* England they say the present majority of women over men amounts to 1,036,936. In the colonies these conditions are reversed. In 10 years the association has sent over 5000 persons to the colonies. Many of these would have been unable to go without advances from the loan fund, and the greater part of the loans so advanced have been repaid. The accounts received from the emigrants are invariably prosperous; and at least 10 times the number hitherto sent could be despatched if the association had larger funds at its disposal. A most careful system of selection and of protection on the voyage has secured the confidence of those colonies in which the work is known.

Mr. A. E. Spender, writing from Winchester, gives some facts which he has gathered in Canada on the question of emigration for women. The demand for governesses, he says, is necessarily limited, but the cry for servants is unappeasable. This does not seem to be so much the case either at Victoria or at Vancouver. Nor is the demand to any extent large in the districts that lie between the Rocky Mountains and Winnipeg. At Winnipeg, however, Mr. Spencer was told by a man of authority that if 300 girls were to arrive on the following day the platform would be a pandemonium of mistresses all anxious to secure a servant. Fortunately a home has just been erected in this "Heart City" for the girls whither they will go until they have been selected. A home of a similar kind is to be established at Toronto, which is also without its proper service of cooks and housemaids.

The Ontario Law Society Benchers have decided to admit ladies to the Bar. The *Times* correspondent states that the rules stipulate that lady barristers must appear in court attired in a black dress under a black gown, with white collar and cuffs, and bare-headed—a costume, it will be seen, which is not altogether unlike that prescribed for certain ladies of the Bar nearer home.

TO THE HILLS.

(*National Observer.*)

To those whose wanderings have not extended beyond the limits of the temperate zone it will be difficult to understand the feeling of relief with which the Anglo-Indian sits him down in one of the toy trucks of the Darjeeling-Himalayan railway which bears him upward to the hills. Eighteen hours ago he was in Calcutta sweating in the hot weather or steaming in the rains. Through the hot afternoon and the sultry night the train has carried him through miles of flat cultivated land whose altitude is briefly summarised on the map as "sea level," its formation as "alluvial," "the gift of the river," as Herodotus said of Egypt. In every direction, wherever the eye rests, stretches the long expanse of swampy rice-field or dank jungle. Occasionally a village—a few huts and a ruined tank—appears, and now and then the cultivator and his bullock, but not often. The land conceals its dense population with considerable success. Monotony is the distinguishing feature of the journey, and it is with a sensation of relief that you go on board the river steamer at Damukdia Ghat to eat a dubious dinner while it coughs its way across the Ganges. Night has fallen ere you reach the other shore, and as the train swings along through more level plain, more swampy rice-fields, myriads of fire-flies light up the darkness, darting hither and thither till the signal lanterns pale by comparison. Every bush and shrub seems spangled with them. Your bearer has made your bed for you, taken off your clothes and put you into pyjamas. It only remains to sleep—if you can. The heat is still oppressive, and through the open windows the engine spouts, smuts, and cinders. You are dirty, you are weary, you are cross. You kick your blanket pettishly on to the floor. In the morning, just before dawn, there comes that breath of chilling cold which follows a sultry night, and you find you want it. It is out of reach. You rise sleepily and pick it up. The beast opposite is sleeping soundly, and snoring. You long to drop your boots, your portmanteau, your walking-stick with a crash upon the floor to wake him, but mere shame restrains you. You wrestle with the temptation under your blanket, and in the struggle fall asleep. At Siliguri you turn out for breakfast, and the Himalayas are in sight.

The Darjeeling-Himalayan railway is a queer little line. It scrambles up along the side of the hills, twisting now this way, now that. Sometimes it strays from side to side of the old Tonga road, cutting corners and dodging curves. When the hillside is too steep it does a little piece of shunting and zigzags upwards, for all the world like a mountaineer climbing a precipice. In moments of extravagance it traverses little cuttings of its own, so narrow that the dewy grasses on either side sweep the footboards as they pass. The engine has no cogwheels to help it along Swiss fashion. It simply clambers up as best it can on ordinary metals, panting and creaking round sharp curves and up steep gradients. The gauge is very narrow, the rolling stock very crazy, and the stations primitive wooden structures. At times, when there are heavy rains, big slices of rock and gravel come crashing down and block the line for a day or two, or portions of the not very permanent way subside into the valleys a few hundred feet below. But this does not happen very often, and ordinarily the journey to Darjeeling is sufficiently secure. As the train rattles along upward, squeaking and jolting, the view over the valley slowly widens till a blue haze begins to steal over it. Occasionally a bullock-cart or a foot-passenger is passed upon the Tonga road, and man and beast stare dumbly at the noisy, smoky little train clattering past them. Anything approaching to the noises of the journey it is difficult to imagine. The engine coughs and snuffles and whines and screams. The carriages rattle and bump and squeak and sway like a luggage train shunting in a siding, while in the trees the crickets shout to one another in one continuous note that is positively deafening. For the first few miles of the ascent the train passes through thick vegetation, and the air is still the hot and heavy air of the plains. But as you climb higher a delicious freshness begins to make itself felt and an exhilarating breath from the snows reaches you, keen and cool and stimulating as champagne. The higher you go the barer grow the hillsides and the wider the view. At times the train seems positively to hang over the side of the precipice, and you feel yourself instinctively leaning away from the edge lest your weight should cause the train to topple over a sheer thousand feet or two into the abyss. Far away below lies the Terai spread out like a map at your feet, and in the blue distance Bengal. By the time you have gone up four or five thousand feet in rather more than as many hours you are up among the clouds, the plains are out of sight and out of mind, and you are glad to get into an overcoat. There are few trees up here, and there is no undergrowth. Nothing seems to flourish save the tea-gardens clinging desperately to the grassy surface of the mountain-side, and always liable to slip away down into the valley one fine morning, leaving the face of the rock bare. As the train approaches Darjeeling it begins to run through a comparatively populous district. It threads its way through native streets, between lines of shanties where the traders sell their wares, and the children playing in the gutters stand aside to let it pass. The people wear clothes of brighter colours, and there is not that eternal sameness of white garments which you see in the plains. The faces, too, are of a different type. The sleek Bengali has given place to the sturdy, stupid, stolid Lepchas and Bhutias, who approach in colour and feature to the Chinese. For the most part they look sleepily good-natured. You rapidly grow to like their blue eyes and yellow skins and snub noses.

Probably Darjeeling is the most beautiful place on earth. Certainly it is one of the most beautiful. As you stand upon the side of the hill overlooking the station one of the most magnificent views of mountain and valley lies before you that the world contains. The nearer slopes are not unlike Cumberland in their boldness of outline, but then Cumberland cannot provide a background of snow-clad mountains towering to heaven and gleaming in the sun, and Cumberland has no blue to equal the blue haze that hangs over Sikkim. The houses are not like Indian houses. They are the white villas of Ventnor or Malvern, each standing in its little patch of green garden and backed by the green hillside. There are fire-places in the rooms and fires in them, actually *fires*—fragrant logs which flicker and glow and smoulder for all the world as if you were in England and Christmas near. When the day is misty thick white clouds come down and hide the hilltops, or fill the valleys with tumbled snowy masses. If it rains it is not the heavy, drenching, tropical rain of India, but the gentle English drizzle which does not laugh at umbrellas. And when it is clear, when the sun shines out royally overhead, and miles of hill and valley lie before you right away to the eternal snows, then indeed there is nothing like Darjeeling; not Simla, beloved of Viceroys and members of Council; not Naini Tal, with its blue lake nestling in the hills; nor Ootacamund, "gracious with temperate air." As you wander along its terraced walks fresh views of snow and mountain greet your eye, and the whole is on so vast a scale that it is only by an effort that you can realise its immensity. The paths are the winding paths of Malvern, cut out of the side of the hill, *but you might take the* Malvern Hills bodily and dump them down in the valley below, and they would hardly be noticed. They would be dwarfed into insignificance beside these giant peaks.

Such is Darjeeling, most beautiful of hill stations. Socially it lacks the magnificence of Simla. The apostle is not above his master, nor the summer retreat of a Lieutenant-Governor as that of the Viceroy. Tea parties and minor dissipation are the rule, with an occasional dance at the club or the Shrubbery. Most of the houses are somewhat small for entertaining. But you can walk or ride on ponies, or go about in a rickshaw or a "dandy," according as you are energetic or lazy, and merely to snuff the cold breezes from the snows is a delight. Do not despise the "dandy." It has a pleasant rolling gait as your stalwart bearers climb the steep hill-sides carrying you shoulder high reclining at ease. The rickshaw is rather slow and Bath-chairy, but the "dandy" is almost exhilarating. As you are borne along in it the mind is filled with a pleasing wonder as to what would become of the body if one of the bearers slipped and the whole concern went bodily down the Khud. There are infinite possibilities in the "dandy."

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THE REVELATIONS OF A CONJURER.

Those who deplore the decay of lying can have little acquaintance with the art of the conjurer in its full development. Falsehood in word and deed, mendacity specious but unblushing, constitute the equipment of the expert magician of to-day. The "professor" now and then may tell the solemn truth, as when he assures the audience that in his vanishing processes he extremely rarely uses his sleeves; but it is precisely at such times that he least expects to be believed, and, in sooth, his occasional excursion into honest talk is but a blind—the same with intent to deceive. He can utter more lies in the course of a single entertainment, and that with easy grace and self-possession, than Mandeville or Munchausen could set down in a volume. The respectability of the artist Ananias is untouched by his performance; on the contrary, his reputation and popularity are enhanced.

To discover, by successful guess or accurate reasoning, the truth as to the arts and methods of a modern magician is an achievement pleasing enough to the acute and logical mind; for, as a rule, in presence of a good conjurer we can be absolutely certain only of this—that we can be absolutely certain of no particular thing about which we feel absolutely certain. The deliberate revelation, therefore, of his principal mysteries by the magician himself suggests the sort of piquancy proper to an *histoire secrète* or a diplomatic indiscretion. The curious reader of such a recital experiences peculiar satisfaction in being made, so to speak, the confidant of the popular deceiver. Only then can he understand and appreciate the resources of a skilful magician of the better class—the readiness of his wit, the deftness and dexterity of his fingers, the range of his ingenuity; his moral courage, his powers of imagination and invention, his delicacy and daintiness of procedure, his knowledge of the human mind, and the skill with which he directs and misdirects it. Then does the reader begin to recognise the range and beauty of this frivolous art (as Shakespeare counted it to be) which for ages kept the world in thrall, and acknowledge the qualities which led it from the temple of ancient times to the astrologer's cave of the Dark Ages, and from the mountebank's tent of Ages somewhat Lighter brought it respectably to the drawing-room of to-day and the stage of modern civilisation. Of these authentic revelations by competent tricksters, Mr. Charles Bertram's book, awkwardly entitled "Isn't It Wonderful?" is the latest; and if not the best, is certainly not the least credible and sincere.

It may be asked how far the exposure of secrets that comprise the very spirit of an art flourishing only on deception may be beneficent or harmful; for the author does not hesitate to reveal a number of the most famous and bewildering illusions of the past few years, to the accuracy of which revelations we can bear ready witness. But this question, acutely raised and contested some 20 years ago when Professor Hoffmann's book on "Modern Magic" was published, has long since received an answer, and we have evidence that the conjuring clients, amateur and professional, of leading dealers, such as Bland or Hamley, have been raised by the publication of that and of succeeding works upon the same and kindred subjects, from a few score to at least a thousand practising magicians. Every fresh exposure brings new admirers, while it repels none of the old. When Hoffmann's book appeared (though it was not by any means the first to withdraw the veil of mystery from the magic art) it was denounced as the death-blow to conjuring by all those professionals and dealers who did not ignore it. But soon they found that their business was improved by the disclosure, and now enjoy an important source of profit in selling the very text books as well as the wares that explain and lay bare to the world their secrets and construction. With the exception of but a few illusions—for Mr. Maskelyne still delays the publication of his long-promised volume—no conjuring secrets exist for a reader who cares to ascertain them: anyone with a natural gift may become a conjurer if he please, with the certainty of welcome in every drawing-room, and of appreciation keener nowhere than in the company of fellow-magicians.

It is but a few years ago that a mysterious and lurid French professor of a certain branch of prestidigitation imparted for a considerable sum—anything from £5 to £10 apiece—secrets of a style of card-conjuring of his own invention, the results of which were, perhaps, more marvellous than anything that had been witnessed before by either amateur or professor. This octogenarian professor, who a score of years or more before had been the teacher of the mighty Robert Houdin himself, aided by a manner and a *boniment* which alike savoured strongly of the supernatural, seemed to defy every known conjuring principle, and could do what he liked with the cards. It was not merely that he could "make the pass," whether with one hand or with two, in a degree of perfection probably never before attained by mortal hands; he would produce a pack of new cards, break the seal, have the pack shuffled, and offer it to one of the audience to cut where he liked. Instantly throwing down the packet which remained upon his hand, he would without a moment's hesitation inform his assistant that he had cut, say, 19 cards containing 115 pips. The experiment he would repeat as often as asked, and others hardly less wonderful would he execute without allowing even the most expert eye to detect the secret of his execution. This secret has already been made public so far as its essential principle is concerned—first by Professor Hoffmann, then by Mr. Maskelyne, and now finally by Mr. Bertram. It is true that they none of them tell the whole secret; that is a revelation which perhaps at some future time we may ourselves undertake in these columns. Suffice it to say that this man of weird mystery relied upon the secret marking of cards as the main basis of his operations; but that this invention of his, so ingeniously managed and so exquisitely carried out, has within a short time been considered worth casting off and vulgarising by the few who knew and practised it, is eloquent testimony to the rapidity with which the conjuror's art moves to-day. The "Vanishing Lady" still draws crowds in the provinces, yet Mr. Bertram does not hesitate to explain how, after her form has been outlined under the concealing veil by cunningly contrived wires—the cunning of it all being vastly heightened by the suggestive but unforced by-play of the conjurer—she descends quietly through the hinged seat of her chair and a flap in the "faked" newspaper spread under it, and, thanks to a trap in the stage which she noiselessly closes after her, proceeds unknown to the audience to her appointed seat in the gallery and there arrives at the moment when the professor not only "vanishes" her, but, by means of a powerful and ingenious "pull" under his coat, draws up the veil within its sleeves and back like a flash of lightning. Again, Mr. Bertram explains how on a stage draped in black, though in the full fierce glare of foot and side lights, the illusion known as "Diablerie" is produced; how those marvellous appearances and disappearances in the full sight of the audience are arranged; and how simple is the principle on which an effect nothing less than miraculous is easily obtained. But all these things have been published before, and are open to those who know where to seek them; and Mr. Bertram's sole merit as an original expositor, so far as we are aware, consists in the fulness of his descriptions of the three-card trick and the purse trick of the racecourse. For the rest, his book is garrulous and of little value or particular interest save to those who, curious in the subject, light upon it for the first time.

But the author, for all his experience and for all his admitted skill, *is not of sufficient intellectual calibre* to treat the subject philosophically in the way it deserves. He does not convince us that he is himself cognisant of the relative intrinsic value and importance of the various forms of illusion. The common though not unnatural fault of the professional conjurer, however skilful he may be, consists mainly in this—that he estimates the importance of a trick by its effect upon the audience, instead of by the ingenuity, the daintiness, or bold imaginativeness of its method. He will rank a trick which depends upon mere confederacy for its success as the highest of its kind if it produces the loudest applause from his audience; and he will take as ready delight in an experiment which consists only in the ingenuity of the piece of apparatus employed, though invented and constructed by a dealer, or in the audacity of a *double entente* flung in the face of his audience, as in one that involves the utmost development of sleight-of-hand and the exercise of his highest qualities as a conjurer. Such a man is a mere trickster, justified no doubt by the commercial considerations of his craft; but the artist prefers to regard *la magie blanche* from a higher plane, and holds it a greater achievement to delight an audience for an hour or two with his own unaided fingers and a few objects borrowed and unprepared than to make the town ring with a performance of apparatus with springs or double-bottoms, spiritualistic cabinets with sliding bolts, theosophical manifestations with invisible wires, hypnotic demonstrations with the aid of holes pierced previously in the flesh, or "Births of Flora" in which optical illusion is obtained through the deceptive superposition of red upon red.

We do not for a moment desire to underrate the inventive genius of men such as Mr. Maskelyne, who by their exposures of humbug have, thanks to their creative mechanical genius, acquired a distinct claim to be regarded as popular benefactors. It is well, therefore, that for the instruction of the reader we should insist upon the following points. First, that conjuring is to be divided into two sections—the showier and less artistic (though probably also the first in chronological order), being what is known in France as *la physique occulte*; in which the apparatus, or the "illusion," performs itself by virtue of its own secret construction or scientific principle—as in such cases, for example, as where mirrors or electricity are employed. Second, that prestidigitation, or true sleight-of-hand, demands infinite patience in the practice of principles evolved through the ages, and in which expertness is entirely personal, to be acquired only by aid of natural talent and intelligence. Third, that either of these two sections is more difficult of execution and effective presentation in the drawing-room than on the stage, not only because the performer is closer to, if not in the midst of, his audience, and so must exercise the greater care and skill in his task, but also because the stage itself, with its traps, its threads, and its pistons; its tables, with their traps, threads, and pistons; its innocent-looking chairs, with their traps and secret *servantes*; with all the other illusions electrical, optical, acoustical, and so forth, present facilities for the presentation of the tricks themselves and for the misdirection and distraction of the audience.

We have already dwelt upon the change in the attitude of the world towards magic—how from ancient times faith gave way to doubt, and doubt to incredulity. Yet to-day, when that incredulity is better informed than ever it was, the art of eluding sharper eyes and fully initiated observation has certainly lost no ground. No sooner is one method made known or another discredited than fresh means are devised for producing similar results; indeed, as we write we receive from America a batch of new sleight-of-hand principles which will probably defy the detection of many amateurs and professionals in the country for some time to come, and when these are found out further improvements and inventions will doubtless take their place. It is hardly to be expected that the popularity of the art is destined to decline, for the mind of man has always been attracted by the marvellous. In some it is satisfied with nothing less than the supernatural in one of the many forms in which it is catered for to-day; in others, it is satisfied with a harmless and amusing form of recreation offered by the many skilful "professors" (*pace* Matthew Arnold) of whom Mr. Bertram is a worthy representative. The art is the art of humbug without doubt, but humbug based upon prodigious skill and deftness, and embroidered with so much dainty fancy, lively imagination, and graceful trifling that it is likely to maintain its position in the estimation of the world and help to maintain the gaiety of nations.—*Spectator.*

THE REBELLION IN THE PHILIPPINES.

THE FIGHTING AT NOVELETA.

HEAVY LOSSES.

From China papers that have just reached us we take the following particulars of the rebellion in the Philippines:—The attack upon the rebel positions in Cavite commenced on the 8th or 9th November. The *Comercio* of the 10th, the latest date received, refers to the affair briefly as follows:—"A note has been communicated by the headquarters to the press on the operations now coming to a head in Cavite. According to this, yesterday the attack was commenced on the entrenched positions of Cavite Viejo and Noveleta, which were defended by more than 10,000 rebels. General Rios' brigade, divided into two columns and supported by the vessels of the squadron, after a fierce combat obtained possession of the Noveleta Isthmus, the redoubt and village of Binacayan, which were destroyed, and of the Imus road, which was fortified. Our loss was 35 killed, including five officers, and 103 wounded, including one staff officer and four other officers. Our troops conducted themselves heroically, so much so that the officers cannot find words to sufficiently praise their gallantry. The circumstances of the field of operations being so near, and the ease with which information can be transmitted to the enemy, necessitate great reserve as to the plans projected for the suffocation of the insurrection; but we may assure our readers that the valiant army will soon arrive covered with glory at its goal. The sensible losses which these operations have cost are the best proof of the manner in which our soldiers, both Peninsular and native, are fighting, not hesitating to shed their blood."

ANOTHER ACCOUNT.

According to information received from a private source the affair bears a different complexion from that placed on it by the above. Operations commenced in earnest on Sunday, the 8th November. The rebels are said to be strongly fortified and provided with Nordenfeldt and other quick-firing guns, and in the attack on Noveleta, notwithstanding the assistance from men-of-war in the bay, the Spanish troops were obliged to retire with heavy loss. Whereas the official account states the loss at 35 killed and 103 wounded, it is stated that on Monday midnight (9th) the steamer Isabel I. moored alongside the quay close to the Magallanes monument with 240 severely wounded, all of whom were taken to the military hospital in litters; and on Tuesday morning the steamer Filipino came up the river at 11 a.m. with 60 more wounded, some of them slightly only and able to walk. This makes 300 wounded in place of 103, as stated in the official account. The rebel loss is not stated in the extract quoted above from the *Comercio*, but it is said to have been given out at 400. Considering, however, that the rebels were all behind parapets and in rifle-pits which the Spaniards were unable to take, this must be purely conjecture and published for political motives. On Wednesday, 11th, news was received that the Spaniards had lost 300 more men in a second unsuccessful attempt to take Noveleta. The Spaniards estimate the insurgent force there as 10,000 men, so what they may be in Imus, the great stronghold seven miles inland, it is impossible to say. In order to buoy up public opinion the newspapers came out with extra editions on Monday afternoon, anticipating as usual glorious victories, and stating that the first shot fired from the cruiser Castilla was so well directed that the shell burst in the public square just at the moment when the same was crowded with people. Reference to the map will show that Imus is just seven miles from the coast, and considering that the Castilla was anchored at least one mile from the shore, and that Imus was invisible, this is rather a "tall" order, especially when it is considered that between Imus and Cavite lie the towns of Cavite Viejo and Noveleta, both of which are held by the insurgents.

Dr. José Rizal returned to Manila by the transport Colon on the 3rd November, and was consigned to prison, at the disposition of the military authorities.

One thousand three hundred and eighty-three troops arrived by the Colon.

According to a Madrid telegram of the 4th November General Polavieja, accompanied by four other Generals, had arrived at Barcelona to embark for the Philippines.

The issue of a loan of 10 million dollars in Manilla, the operation to be undertaken by the Banco Espanol Filipino, is under consideration.

ASSOCIATION OF AUTHORS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD.

Sir,—Nothing, so far as is publicly known, has yet come of the practical offer by "Association" (inspired by the suggestion contained in a recent letter of "Junius") to join in mutual good-fellowship the hands of eligible would-be members of a "New South Wales Society of Authors." In the interests of colonial readers, no less than those of colonial writers—who, if true to their literary art, aim at educating in preference to undeviatingly following the public fancy in its waywardness—such a union deserves a trial. The suggestion may not be seasonable, for a week or two at any rate; but from the point of view of the author, whose wares, now unprotected, escape without serious harm the hands of the critics, only to fall into the clutches of the pirates of literature, it will be timely until it bears the fruit desired. For a school of literary artists is there not as distinct a *locus standi* ("a place," to wit) in the colony as results have proved there to be for that of their brethren, the painters? Surely. Admitted that the reason for being of a story-writer is his capacity to amuse rather than his ability to instruct, the responsibility of not debasing his art in so doing rests with him, and it is in awakening such a sense in its members that a colonial authors' society would justify its existence on intellectual grounds. Fortunately the press of the colony—with one or two journalistic exceptions—have, by encouragement, advice, and temperate censure, succeeded in keeping the published work of writers up to a fairly high standard, and, safeguarded thus, there need be no apprehension that the authors' society would come to regard as the main object of its existence either mutual admiration or the perpetration of potboilers. The commercial interests of such a fraternity would be preserved, doubtless, by the extension and modification of the principle of international copyright.

I am, &c., A SCRIBBLER.

A HIGH HONOUR.

PEARS, Soap Makers by special appointment to Her Majesty the Queen and His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales.—[ADVT.]

A SPOTLESS COMPLEXION.—Sulpholine Lotion clears off all imperfections, Eruptions, Pimples, Blotches, Eczema, Psoriasis, and irritating Skin Disfigurements. Shilling bottles of Sulpholine—the English Lotion.—[ADVT.]

DON'T LOOK OLD.

With advancing years greyness increases. Stop this with LOCKYER'S SULPHUR HAIR RESTORER, which darkens to the former colour and preserves the appearance. Lockyer's Restorer is made in England only.—[ADVT.]

FREETRADE IN VICTORIA.

Within the last few months frequent meetings have been held in Melbourne and suburbs in advocacy of freetrade. Considerable interest appears to have been roused, for the gatherings have as a rule been well attended. On Monday evening last a meeting was held under the auspices of the Freetrade Democratic Association at the Mechanics' Institute, Footscray, at which Mr. J. A. Boyd replied to the arguments of Mr. S. Mauger, the protectionist apostle. The chair was occupied by Mr. J. R. Henderson. Mr. Boyd (as reported in the Melbourne *Argus*) said that about a fortnight since Mr. Mauger had lectured at the Royal Hotel, Footscray, and had invited discussion. At the wish of several residents of Footscray he had taken up this challenge, and he was present to explain the other side of the case. It was idle to say that if our markets were thrown open they would be deluged by cheap Chinese and Japanese goods, because no nation was foolish enough to sell its goods without receiving payment in other goods. (Hear, hear.) England's trade was increasing by £12,000,000 per annum every decade. From 1875 to 1879 England's trade per head of the population was £15 19s 4d and Germany's £7 9s 1d. From 1890-4 England's trade per head was £15 10s 2d, while Germany's had declined to £7 4s 11d. The other day at Korumburra a protectionist agitation was commenced to get an import duty on "foreign" coal—foreign coal, from New South Wales. (Laughter and applause, and a voice, "What about federation?") Mr. Trenwith, at the meeting, expressed himself in favour of placing a duty on imported coal of from 2s 6d to 22s 6d per ton. He also, at a recent meeting at Port Melbourne, said that he was an ardent federationist. If federation meant anything it meant intercolonial freetrade. Thus Mr. Trenwith, having first put on the duty, was going to contest a seat for the federal convention and break down the duty again. (Laughter.) A man who could advocate two such widely opposite views within a week must be deficient in any logical sense whatever. (Hear, hear.) The next branch which he desired to touch was the axiom that population followed employment. Mr. Trenwith said that if we opened our ports Victoria would become a sheepwalk. Well, New South Wales had not become a sheepwalk. (A voice: "When was it anything else?") Well, New South Wales had more population than Victoria, and her population was increasing, while that of Victoria was steadily decreasing. The population of Holland in 1859 was 3,300,000, and in 1889 4,500,000. England, at the beginning of her freetrade policy, had 27,000,000 of population. Now her population was over 40,000,000. New South Wales in four years and a half had increased her population by 67,000, while Victoria had lost 17,000 of her adult population. (A voice: "That shows that Victorians have the money to clear out, and the New South Wales people haven't." Loud laughter.) In 1889 Victoria had 57,000 men and women employed in her manufactories and New South Wales 45,000. In 1893 Victoria's figures had decreased to 43,000, while in New South Wales 44,600 hands were employed—in other words, Victoria's total had decreased by 25 per cent., and that of New South Wales by less than 1 per cent. Next, as to the assertion that protection fostered employment. After 107 years the industries of America wanted more protection than they did in George Washington's time, although the tariff had been altered no less than 22 times. Protection in the United States had led to the formation of immense monopolies and rings. The result was that the United States manufacturers could in eight months manufacture enough goods to supply the world, and for the other four months they turned their workmen adrift. (Hear, hear.) When a 50 per cent. duty was placed on cheap carpets the carpet manufacturers of the United States immediately shut up 40 per cent. of their looms for a year. The Hartford factory, employing 1800 hands, cut down wages 8 per cent., and millions of workmen all over the country, as the direct result of the M'Kinley tariff, had their wages reduced from 5 to 20 per cent. The vast number of millionaires in America, side by side with a pauperism as great as any that ever existed in England, showed that there was something rotten in the state of affairs. On the 2nd April, 1894, Mr. Hancock said, "Even in the country I come from, the home of the brave and the—free and the half-starved—Great Britain—I have never seen such distress as exists here in Melbourne"—(laughter)—and Mr. C. Bishop, the president of the Trades Hall, speaking at a sweating meeting in the Town Hall, said that carpenters were working at the Spottiswoode pumping station for 2s 4d per day, and labourers were digging post-holes for 1s 1d per day, and finding their own explosives. (Hear, hear.) That was what 30 years of protection had done for Victoria. (Applause and dissent.) The Melbourne City Council had actually offered 4s 11d per day for a man, horse, and dray, and that was a blot on our civilisation. (Hear, hear.) The duty on wheat had become operative for the first time this year, and the consumer had to pay 1d a lb. more for bread. (Cries of "We don't mind it.") In Mr. Trenwith's words, protection had failed because it had increased the price to the consumer for one hour. Mr. Mauger had also said that protection had caused sweating in the boot trade, because anyone could enter the trade with a very small capital. As to doing away with the middleman, had protection done away with him? Could anyone go to the Denton Hat Mills and buy at retail prices? (Laughter and "Hear, hear.") The Denton hats were distributed through the retailers, of whom Mr. Mauger was one. (Laughter, and a voice: "Then he's a middleman.") Yes, Mr. Mauger was the second middleman. (Applause.) He did not believe that freetrade would abolish poverty. It was necessary to look very much deeper than questions of fiscal policy. At the same time, protection was ruining the colony. (Applause.)

SIR JOSEPH BANKS AND ROBERT BROWN.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD.

Sir,—In your very interesting leader in the issue of the 19th instant on the arboriculture and horticulture of Sydney and its suburbs you write, "And men like Banks who accompanied Cook, and the more celebrated Brown who accompanied Flinders, to take names that have a special interest for Australians." This, it is, which impels me again to ask the favour of a small space in your columns to plead for some substantial acknowledgment of the great services rendered by Sir Joseph Banks to the colony, and an acknowledgment of the great debt of gratitude which we one and all, whether immigrant or native-born, owe to him for those services of which we are reaping the substantial benefit. What those services were I need not recount here. They were fully shown by you in a leader during October, 1895. There is, however, one thing which I believe is not generally known, namely, that Robert Brown, like the members of the scientific staff on the Endeavour on Cook's first voyage, was in the pay and the employment of Sir Joseph Banks. The Government merely gave his passage with Flinders, Sir Joseph Banks finding everything requisite for the mission on which Brown came. At the time when the Government determined to send out Flinders' surveying expedition Sir Joseph had in his library engaged as a botanist a young man who had been educated for the medical profession in Edinburgh, but to whom the study of botany was more congenial than that of surgery. Believing this young man to be eminently fitted for the purpose of investigating the flora of Australia he obtained permission from the Admiralty for him to accompany Flinders as a botanist. He remained here about four years, and on his return Sir Joseph was so pleased with the manner in which he had executed the work entrusted to him that he employed him as one of his librarians. Here Brown had ample time and means to prosecute the study of botany, which he so dearly loved. At his decease Sir Joseph Banks bequeathed to the British Museum his collection and library, one of the conditions of the bequeath being that *durante vita* Mr. Robert Brown should be the curator of it. He also gave him for life possession of the old library buildings in Dean-street, Soho, and there he continued to prosecute his botanical studies until his death, and there I called upon him a few days before I sailed from England to say farewell.

Seeing what Sir Joseph did for botany I think I may well look for the assistance of our Linnean Society, and also, I think, of our Royal Society; and seeing also that it was mainly through the efforts of Sir Joseph Banks that the Rev. Richard Johnson, B.A., was sent out with the first fleet, I may hope for the help of the clergy generally in my efforts to obtain some public recognition of his services.

I am, &c.,
JOSEPH BANKS DURHAM.

MUNICIPALITIES AND THE COMMISSIONERS FOR TAXATION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD.

Sir,—In your issue of Saturday last a paragraph appears on the above subject, which seeks to allay the uneasiness exhibited by certain municipal councils as to their liability to pay tax upon the amount of interest paid by them on debentures. It is explained that the councils are merely required to deduct the amount of tax from the interest payable to the debenture holders, and further explains that this is a very simple process and need not cause any inconvenience to the councils concerned. I venture to assert that it will cause not only inconvenience to the councils, but also in some cases will result in actual loss. Debentures issued by a municipal council with interest coupons attached are negotiable without reference to or registration by the council. The council is merely called upon to pay the amount of interest to the holder of the coupon (which is payable to "bearer") at a bank named on the coupon. The council has no means of knowing who is the owner of its debentures. It has no right, in fact, to inquire. It has simply to pay the bearer, say £2 10s, the amount of the coupon. This being so, has it ever struck the commissioners that they are calling upon councils to deduct moneys for income tax which the holder of the coupon may not be liable to pay, his total income being under the amount of exemption. The councils, in fact, are to pay over the tax, per their public officer, who is personally liable to the commissioners, and stand the brunt of possible actions at law by debenture-holders. The commissioners state that this is the custom in England and elsewhere, but I can see nothing in the local Act authorising such a proceeding, and I think councils will do well to delay payment pending counsel's advice being obtained as to their liability to be made the medium of collection of this tax. I am, &c., COUNCIL CLERK.

News has been received in Russia of the Swedish expedition under Dr. Sven Heding to the Khotan district. In the course of five months two ancient ruined towns have been discovered, with architectural remains suggesting Indian origin. On the banks of the Karia-Daria the expedition fell in with a small nomadic tribe so isolated that it did not know whether Yakoob Beg still existed or whether it belonged to China. Herds of wild camels were met with on the desert, some few of which were shot by the party.

THE SHIFTING SCENE.

THE HUMOURS OF TRAM TRAVELLING.

(By Wanda.)

The humours of Sydney tram travelling, like Mr. Weller's knowledge of London, are peculiar unobtrusive, and perhaps no one but Mr. Weller's author could do anything like justice to the delicate subject. They embrace as one end the unity of funeral mourners journeying sadly to Waverley, and at the other the boydenish shopgirls who crowd the cars on a Saturday evening. Generally between these are many phases for observation—phases as varied as life itself. Whether we can succeed in catching just a fleeting aspect or two is another matter. Perhaps not: the procession of tram travellers is too vast and shifting, too comprehensive, and yet too elusive for any process of preservation that does not include in it a photographer's camera. Nevertheless, one wishes very often that people did not carry large moist parcels of vegetables about with them when they ride in trams. This is done too frequently, and if there is one thing in the world that makes me—I've no doubt those who know me share my antipathy—more uncomfortable than another, it is to be on the rank end of a cabbage sticking out of a parcel adjacent to me. Moreover, people who carry vegetables about with them in tram cars invariably allow one end of the parcel to lop over on to the knees of their next-door neighbour. And that next-door neighbour is nearly always myself. It is a curious and unhappy circumstance, too, that this class of person nearly always holds an animated conversation with a friend who is sitting in the opposite corner. To properly commune it is necessary to lean heavily across you. This is done by placing an elbow firmly on your knee, and the bonnet (the cabbage carriers are generally women) under your chin. In fact, you become a sort of cushion, and the unwilling listener to something like this:—

"So I see to him at once, I see you've had the most pretty regular, and if you're going to be pretty now over a couple of weeks, it's shabby"—raising her voice. "I told him, Sarah, I see, it's shabby!"

Sarah (heavily perspiring): "You did the right thing, Annie; that you did. These landlords 'll take your body and soul, let alone your bedding and bits of sticks."

But it is not profoundly interesting to record fleece-direful dialogues of the slums. The main point for me is that Sarah and Annie prod me in various parts in their anxiety to get each other under better conversational range, and when I utter a feeble protest by twisting my body about they simply grin good-humouredly and thrust their cabbages more firmly against my shirt-front. They get out probably at the Belmore Markets, and may pause go with them—one seems to see visions of three or four grubby little children anxiously waiting their home-coming.

One observes a very different sort of passenger next. She's an intensely superior person—you can see that by the air of settled disgust which is upon her rather pinched face. It seems to say that her father kept his carriage, and the frigid hauteur which marks her manner is sustained even when the guard pokes his head in at the door and shouts "Fares!" The other passengers who have not paid are sprung from the people, and they promptly hand over tickets; not so this reduced scion of the Vere de Veres. But the guard has a duty to perform to the State, and he is a large red-faced man—one to whom fear is not—"Fare, ma'am," he says, standing over the haughty one. In this emergency she proves her superiority to the *canaille*, which, when it is bent on "doing" the Government in a tramcar, feebly shuffles its feet, looks the other way, sometimes protests. Not so here—one cool sustained stare met the first demand of the conductor; to a second a calm, "I've paid you once," sent the official away in headlong route. He cast one unutterable look at the woman—and left. The whole incident was so staggering in its cool audacity that it set me thinking. Everyone in the compartment—there were four or five of us—must have known the truth, just as well as the conductor or the woman herself. It was not the mere *vulgar incident of the* petty fraud—no; it was the matchless effrontery, the superb manner of the swindler that arrested me. Surely, I thought, this cannot be often done, and, if so, what does it point to? Here is a woman, decently comported; she has obviously been trained to certain decent courses of behaviour, yet, calmly, in the face of the public, she filches a tram ride from a sturdy and alert Government official. The subject so took possession of my mind that I determined to investigate it. At the next stopping place I alighted, and went further along to where the guard was sitting. It was an extremely hot day, whirling clouds of dust were blowing up from the track, the smoke and cinders from the motor made the seat which the guard had chosen—the one next the engine—an unpleasant one. Still, it seemed to agree with him splendidly. He wore heavy blue serge clothes, and was eating hurriedly but heartily from a paper. As I got in he gave me a swift look, and resumed his eating. "Don't you want my fare?" I said. "Why, weren't you higher up?" he replied, and I admitted that it was so. I had only asked the question to test something that never fails to amaze me—the astonishing faculty of the tramway guard for remembering faces. You may get into the longest and most crowded tram you like and never be asked a second time for your fare. I mentioned, respectfully, my admiration for this gift. "Oh," he said, "it's nothing. It's like everything else, with training you get as as you cannot forget a face. A man who has been two or three years on the lines isn't capable of making a real mistake. He may in a fit of absentmindedness ask a passenger twice, but the moment he's reminded it all comes back to him."

I thought this was a good opportunity to bring up the real purpose of my visit. "Then," I said, "you know that that woman just now had not paid you?"

He turned round slowly and winked at me with an indescribable expression; it seemed to be the silent expression of one who revered the fair sex and yet had been forced into a half-pathetic, half-humorous distrust of it—in trams. "Knew it," he said, "I should think I did know it. And what's more, she knew that I knew it. But, my word," he went on, with something like admiration in his voice, "it's wonderful, aint it? Gosh, if that had happened to a man you'd have seen him turn all the colours of the rainbow, and most likely end by owning up; he'd have said that he'd made a mistake. But, for bless you, they never go back on it."

"But," I said, "you don't mean to say that it's a common thing?"

"Well, it's like this," rejoined my friend. "You may say that 99 per cent. of the dribbling that's done is done by the ladies. And it aint what you'd call the common folk that are the chief offenders. You'll see a couple of ladies all silks and satins get into a car. Praps I am at the other end at the time. Well, when I gets round to them and collect the fares in their compartment they'll just go on talking to each other and staring straight ahead, or perhaps they'll give a glance at me, as cool and comfortable as if they were serving out tea in their own drawing-rooms. Well, what's a man to do? If you ask them for the tickets it's odds they'll behave as you saw that one do just now, or perhaps one of 'em will turn round and say, 'Oh, conductor, how can you? Why, we paid when we got in"—and a man only looks a fool before a lot of other people. Of course, the worst is as good as yours—perhaps better; and in any case a conductor don't want a row with a woman unless he can help it."

"Is it a common occurrence?" "Well, it's a lot more common than you'd think. I don't suppose a day passes without three or four women trying it on. There are some regular old stagers at it too, and you'd be surprised the number of artful little dodges these are up to. They know just as much about the running of the cars as we do, and there are times when a conductor, though he may be morally certain that a woman hasn't paid her fare, cannot prove it—such as when the tram is crowded from beginning to end and the guard is half-way through collecting the fares. You'll see one of these practised hands make a point of getting in just after the guard has been through a compartment. Then there comes at the next waiting another big rush of passengers, and all that the deadhead has to do is to sit still and look aggrieved when she's asked for a fare. I knew one of these who used to carry four new tickets in her purse. Whenever she was asked for her fare she'd look up with the sweetest smile in the world and say, 'Why, conductor, I've just paid you,' and then she'd take out the four tickets and hold them up to show where she had separated the other two. She was a very pretty woman, and whenever this little comedy happened the men in the compartment would look at the guard as if he were the most mortal liar that ever breathed. I know on one occasion when this happened and the guard fibbed—he'd seen her before—a gentleman offered to thrash him for being rude. He said that thinking was the first thing towards women. He was a fine young fellow, very spirited and hot, but, lor, he didn't know as much about the ladies as me and you."

I repudiated the compliment, explaining that the subject was as a sealed book to me. "Oh, well," he said, "that's all right that'll do. But," he continued in a more serious tone, as if he suddenly felt that he had not altogether done himself justice, "don't you run away with the idea that these fair dodgers (perhaps he didn't mean the pun) are out and outers. It's just an idea they've got, and between you and me there are very few women who wouldn't try and get the better of you for a few pence if they could. They're born for bargains, although when it comes to large figures they're a jolly sight more reliable and honest than men."

"Perhaps," I suggested, "woman's morality is more unsophisticated than ours—they don't mind 'having' a 'bus company or a Government for a few pence; they don't think they're doing any harm. Whereas a man's dishonesty is usually selfish and ordered. Unless he sees a clear advantage he will keep in the narrow, tortuous path."

The guard seemed to be slowly digesting the essence of this, and then he said, "That's it, mister. I'd stake my life that the biggest swindler that ever walked wouldn't think of dodging a tram fare—it wouldn't occur to him. You see—" but here he leapt swiftly from his seat, and I could see him travelling rapidly along the footboard. Presently he returned, hot and puffing, and exclaimed, "While I was talking about dodging I was dodged myself."

"How," he said eagerly? "Why," he returned, "just after I began to talk to you, I went through the tram. There was a young lady there—what we call a 'ticket-minder.'"

"A ticket-minder?"——

"Yes; if I had asked her for her fare she'd have paid it. But I was in a hurry, so I thought I'd take her tickets next time. I forgot all about her till the tram stopped just now, and now she's off. Look at her."

I looked and saw a trim figure in retreat. It was calmly and methodically placing tram tickets in a purse.

"It's like this with women," began the guard once more——

But I am one who would wish to preserve one or two ideals to the bitter end. I slipped off the car with some haste.

OLD AGE PENSIONS AND THE LABOUR UNIONS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD.

Sir,—The article in your issue of the 18th instant re old-age pensions is a valuable one, and should strike and arrest the attention of your readers inasmuch as it shows boldly the cause of what has now become crystallised into thousands of prematurely old men and women. Men and women many of whom have been forced into incapacity and out of use while yet vigorous and capable to a great extent beyond even those who have displaced them. Changes in method of working and new inventions have no doubt had something to do with driving many into the ranks of the unemployed, but the chief consideration which rightly or wrongly have been allowed to enter into trade and commerce may be credited with the proper share of responsibility for the result. But the class of people who probably are the most affected in this respect, and who will be the most numerous in the matter of requiring old-age pensions, are those whose occupations are more physical than mental, and who come between these are many phases for observation—phases as varied as life itself. Whether we can succeed in catching just a fleeting aspect or two is another matter. Perhaps not: the procession of tram travellers is too vast and shifting, too comprehensive, and yet too elusive for any process of preservation that does not include in it a photographer's camera. Nevertheless, one wishes very often that people did not carry large moist parcels of vegetables about with them when they ride in trams. This is done too frequently, and if there is one thing in the world that makes me—I've no doubt those who know me share my antipathy—more uncomfortable than another, it is to be on the rank end of a cabbage sticking out of a parcel adjacent to me. Moreover, people who carry vegetables about with them in tram cars invariably allow one end of the parcel to lop over on to the knees of their next-door neighbour. And that next-door neighbour is nearly always myself. It is a curious and unhappy circumstance, too, that this class of person nearly always holds an animated conversation with a friend who is sitting in the opposite corner. To properly commune it is necessary to lean heavily across you. This is done by placing an elbow firmly on your knee, and the bonnet (the cabbage carriers are generally women) under your chin. In fact, you become a sort of cushion, and the unwilling listener to something like this:—

"So I see to him at once, I see you've had the most pretty regular, and if you're going to be pretty now over a couple of weeks, it's shabby"—raising her voice. "I told him, Sarah, I see, it's shabby!"

Sarah (heavily perspiring): "You did the right thing, Annie; that you did. These landlords 'll take your body and soul, let alone your bedding and bits of sticks."

But it is not profoundly interesting to record fleece-direful dialogues of the slums. The main point for me is that Sarah and Annie prod me in various parts in their anxiety to get each other under better conversational range, and when I utter a feeble protest by twisting my body about they simply grin good-humouredly and thrust their cabbages more firmly against my shirt-front. They get out probably at the Belmore Markets, and may pause go with them—one seems to see visions of three or four grubby little children anxiously waiting their home-coming.

One observes a very different sort of passenger next. She's an intensely superior person—you can see that by the air of settled disgust which is upon her rather pinched face. It seems to say that her father kept his carriage, and the frigid hauteur which marks her manner is sustained even when the guard pokes his head in at the door and shouts "Fares!" The other passengers who have not paid are sprung from the people, and they promptly hand over tickets; not so this reduced scion of the Vere de Veres. But the guard has a duty to perform to the State, and he is a large red-faced man—one to whom fear is not—"Fare, ma'am," he says, standing over the haughty one. In this emergency she proves her superiority to the *canaille*, which, when it is bent on "doing" the Government in a tramcar, feebly shuffles its feet, looks the other way, sometimes protests. Not so here—one cool sustained stare met the first demand of the conductor; to a second a calm, "I've paid you once," sent the official away in headlong route. He cast one unutterable look at the woman—and left. The whole incident was so staggering in its cool audacity that it set me thinking. Everyone in the compartment—there were four or five of us—must have known the truth, just as well as the conductor or the woman herself. It was not the mere *vulgar incident of the* petty fraud—no; it was the matchless effrontery, the superb manner of the swindler that arrested me. Surely, I thought, this cannot be often done, and, if so, what does it point to? Here is a woman, decently comported; she has obviously been trained to certain decent courses of behaviour, yet, calmly, in the face of the public, she filches a tram ride from a sturdy and alert Government official. The subject so took possession of my mind that I determined to investigate it. At the next stopping place I alighted, and went further along to where the guard was sitting. It was an extremely hot day, whirling clouds of dust were blowing up from the track, the smoke and cinders from the motor made the seat which the guard had chosen—the one next the engine—an unpleasant one. Still, it seemed to agree with him splendidly. He wore heavy blue serge clothes, and was eating hurriedly but heartily from a paper. As I got in he gave me a swift look, and resumed his eating. "Don't you want my fare?" I said. "Why, weren't you higher up?" he replied, and I admitted that it was so. I had only asked the question to test something that never fails to amaze me—the astonishing faculty of the tramway guard for remembering faces. You may get into the longest and most crowded tram you like and never be asked a second time for your fare. I mentioned, respectfully, my admiration for this gift. "Oh," he said, "it's nothing. It's like everything else, with training you get as as you cannot forget a face. A man who has been two or three years on the lines isn't capable of making a real mistake. He may in a fit of absentmindedness ask a passenger twice, but the moment he's reminded it all comes back to him."

I thought this was a good opportunity to bring up the real purpose of my visit. "Then," I said, "you know that that woman just now had not paid you?"

He turned round slowly and winked at me with an indescribable expression; it seemed to be the silent expression of one who revered the fair sex and yet had been forced into a half-pathetic, half-humorous distrust of it—in trams. "Knew it," he said, "I should think I did know it. And what's more, she knew that I knew it. But, my word," he went on, with something like admiration in his voice, "it's wonderful, aint it? Gosh, if that had happened to a man you'd have seen him turn all the colours of the rainbow, and most likely end by owning up; he'd have said that he'd made a mistake. But, for bless you, they never go back on it."

"But," I said, "you don't mean to say that it's a common thing?"

"Well, it's like this," rejoined my friend. "You may say that 99 per cent. of the dribbling that's done is done by the ladies. And it aint what you'd call the common folk that are the chief offenders. You'll see a couple of ladies all silks and satins get into a car. Praps I am at the other end at the time. Well, when I gets round to them and collect the fares in their compartment they'll just go on talking to each other and staring straight ahead, or perhaps they'll give a glance at me, as cool and comfortable as if they were serving out tea in their own drawing-rooms. Well, what's a man to do? If you ask them for the tickets it's odds they'll behave as you saw that one do just now, or perhaps one of 'em will turn round and say, 'Oh, conductor, how can you? Why, we paid when we got in"—and a man only looks a fool before a lot of other people. Of course, the worst is as good as yours—perhaps better; and in any case a conductor don't want a row with a woman unless he can help it."

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I am, &c.,

J. G. YOUNG, B.A., &c.

The best medicine known is Coleman and Sons' Eucalyptus Extract. Test its powerful effects in coughs, colds, influenza, &c. Trust in an improved article, and reject all others.—[Advt.]

THE OLD WINDMILLS OF SYDNEY.

A GLIMPSE INTO THE PAST.

I.

The occurrence of a record reign which will always be memorable because of the vast amount of progress with which it has been marked has been seized by many as a favourable opportunity for making retrospects with the object of seeing what the advances made have actually amounted to and what were the conditions out of which they arose. The comparisons thus instituted have been the cause of much gratification to those who have made them. Simultaneously with these labours being concluded references have been made to the growth of Sydney and the great advances which have been made during recent years. It is many years for instance since the last of the windmills disappeared, and it is to be regretted that the last mill was not, like the Martello tower known as Fort Denison, preserved as a monument—as an ever-present object lesson of some of the great developments made during the Victorian era. Many wonderful things have happened during that period, and not the least remarkable of them concerns the preparation of flour. There was a time when the construction of any appliance that would have readily transformed wheat into flour would have been welcomed by the people of this colony. There were, first of all, the iron mills that were imported from England, next the rude appliances for which the colony was indebted to the inventive genius of convicts, next the windmill, then the mill which is now in the opportunity arose either by wind or water, and lastly, the steam mill, which quickly superseded all the more primitive appliances.

At one time windmills were among the most conspicuous features of the landscape. Necessarily elevated ground was first chosen as their sites, and they imparted a certain picturesqueness to the scene. All the old prints show these landmarks, and in one case the area represented embraced five of the structures.

The need for some better mill than was then in existence was felt in July, 1790. The appliances in use were iron mills, which involved the employment of much labour, and were easily rendered useless. Governor Phillip urged the home authorities to send out some windmills. But before this despatch had been given effect to Governor King obtained from Tenerife, in 1791, four pairs of hand millstones, and recommended the British Government to procure for this colony, pending the erection of the proposed windmills, from the same source either hand millstones. These stones were bought at 3s 4d per pair, and were recommended by Governor King on the grounds that they "would keep a family of 10 persons going, and would last a hundred years." In May of the following year (1792) an agreement was made between the Home Department and Thomas Allan, who was employed in the King's mills at Rotherhithe, under which Allen accepted service for four years as master-miller in Mr. Edmund Wood's mills. The salary was £52 10s per annum, good and sufficient clothing and provisions being also supplied to him during the whole term of four years. It is evident that about this time there was already in existence a mill at Parramatta, which was in a ruinous state, but which nevertheless was only capable of turning out coarsely-ground flour, and was far from being an effective apparatus. Owing to the timber with which it was constructed being brittle, the mill proved to be unequal to the work of keeping pace with the consumption of the settlements. It was a frequent occurrence for the cogs to break. With a view to remedying this state of things a convict blacksmith undertook to produce one iron handmill each week, and in 1793 arrangements were permitted their own way entirely; the after consequences would have been deplorable; as it is, many of the less capable workers will be forced aside and add another contingent to the premature ranks made so by legislation. It must not be forgotten in this connection that the weakly will have to be considered as well as the aged in any pension scheme. It is most unfortunate that modern legislation has this tendency, but so it is, and close observers of current events cannot shut their eyes to the lamentable fact. By way of illustration let us consider for a moment the practice in the Public Works Department, and review the celebrated minute of the present Minister for Works on introducing the day-labour system into his department. In his minute he arbitrarily fixes what he terms a minimum wage, also the hours of labour, in order (to use almost his own words) that only the most capable men should be employed on Government work. The translation of this minute makes the Minister say to his officers, probably more than he meant, "You are not to afford employment to any man who has committed the unpardonable sin of having till he was 60 years of age, or whose hair has turned grey, or who has suffered any diminution of physical strength. This Government knows not such. They may be sent to the sandhills and the sewage farm or be consigned to the poorhouse, the gaol, or the hospital for aught we care." Poor old man and his weakly brother! What a bright prospect for them under a paternal Government striving, "heaven save the mark!" for the greatest good of the greatest number.

Considering to what a great extent the Government is an employer of labour and the variety of its industrial enterprises, surely there are many positions within its gift requiring very little of either mental or physical energy and which might yet be well be reserved for those not quite so capable as their fellows. This might be done to the advantage alike of the individuals and the State, and so lessen the urgency of old-age pensions, which if hurried on is sure to be an ill-considered measure.

I am, &c.,

WILLIAM MAINER.

December 21.

WILD FLOWER GATHERING.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD.

Sir,—Will some of your correspondents kindly enlighten me as to the laws relative to wild-flower gathering? Some few days a couple of black-fellows were proceeded against for picking a lot of Christmas bush at Bondi, and the magistrate committed them to prison, failing the fine of £1, where they will probably spend Christmas. I see daily scores of well-dressed persons both at Redfern and the Circular Quay with huge bunches of every description of wild flower. Is there a law preventing these being picked? If so, are the localities restricted to those places immediately surrounding the metropolis? The veriest tyro in botany knows that plucking flowers improves a plant equally as much as pruning; it is the plucking up by the roots only that tends to the destruction of our plants. The framers of laws preventing flowers being plucked were opposed to the first principles of botany, and probably let their roses, &c., bloom untouched, in consequence of which they marvel at the poor crops at the end of the third or fourth year, the plant becomes so weak constantly nourishing such a large family that it soon grows weakly and ceases to bear.

I am, &c.,

J. G. YOUNG, B.A., &c.

NEWS BY THE MAIL.

NOTES FROM VARIOUS SOURCES.

TURKEY AND THE POWERS.

M. DE NELIDOFF'S VISIT TO VIENNA.

REPRESENTATIONS BY THE ITALIAN AMBASSADOR.

A Reuter's telegram says:—At his audience of the Sultan on 13th November, which lasted nearly an hour and a half, Signor Pansa, the Italian Ambassador, speaking in strong terms, insisted upon the execution of reforms as the only means of restoring order in the Turkish Empire. The Sultan, in reply, declared that the reforms had been executed. His Excellency thereupon pointed out that, unfortunately, his own information did not show this to be the case. It did not suffice to publish reforms. It was necessary to carry them out. Referring to the murder of Father Salvatore at the Convent of Jendjie Kaia last year Signor Pansa insisted upon the punishment of Colonel Mazhar Bey, the military commander, declaring that reports from the Italian Consul and the French Military Attaché clearly proved that the detachment of troops under Mazhar Bey's command was guilty of Father Salvatore's murder. The Ambassador added that it was not sufficient to bring Mazhar Bey before a court-martial. What was required was that due punishment should be meted out to him.

M. de Nelidoff, the Russian Ambassador in Constantinople, who was in Vienna from Wednesday morning, 11th November, till Thursday evening, had a prolonged interview with Count Goluchowski, and almost immediately after it the Foreign Minister had an hour's audience of the Emperor.

Events occurring in Paris at the present moment relative to the Sultan's promised "reforms" are nothing other than a financial comedy. The Porte is in desperate need of money, and its one object is to contract a loan which might tend to stave off that financial crisis which would assuredly be followed by the final political breakdown.

Reuter's St. Petersburg correspondent telegraphs:—The return here of the Comte de Montebello, the French Ambassador, was not solely for the purpose of presenting the autograph letter from President Faure to the Czar, but was, it is stated, also prompted by the desire of his Government that he should confer with the chiefs of the Russian Cabinet and with M. de Nelidoff, the Russian Ambassador, the Porte, and the Ambassadors here in regard to the settlement of the Turkish question.

The Russian Paris organ, *La Nord*, of 14th November, says:—"Contrary to the statements of some English papers, no understanding exists between Russia and Great Britain upon the Eastern Question or any other international question."

THE LATEST NIAGARA MARVEL.

A correspondent of the *Times* at Buffalo telegraphs to that journal an enthusiastic message describing how at 12.1 a.m. on 16th November the Niagara Power Company, a distinguished company of his fellow-citizens, announced the formal receipt of electric power from Niagara Falls by a salvo of 21 guns. The first Buffalo customer is the Buffalo Street Railway Company, supplying street conveyance hitherto by means of 375,000 souls. It was originally worked by horses, and later by dynamos driven by local steam engines. The latter are now superseded to the extent of 1000 horse-power out of a total of 7000 from the cataract of Niagara. The aggregate horse-power from Niagara already contracted for in Buffalo is 10,000. Many manufacturers are anxiously waiting to have their applications accepted. The correspondent thinks that are long the 22 miles separating the two cities will be built solid with smokeless and teeming factories.

"THE BLIND MAY SEE."—T. A. EDISON.

Mr. Edison has made a remarkable statement to the effect that by the use of the Roentgen rays (the light used to enable one to see through solid substances) he will be able to photograph the human brain, so that the optic nerve must be intact. Experiments have been made at his laboratory, apparently to some extent successfully, and Mr. Edison prophesies that within three years they will be able to restore sight to the blind.

VALKYRIE AND SATANITA JUDGMENT.

The House of Lords on 20th November delivered judgment in the case Clarke *versus* the Earl of Dunraven, which was an appeal against an order of the Court of Appeal reversing the decree of the Admiralty Division, and declaring that the appellant was not entitled to limit his liability in respect of a collision between the Valkyrie and Satanita, by which the former was sunk. Mr. Justice Bruce decided that Mr. Clarke was only liable to the extent of £8 per ton under the Merchant Shipping Act, but the Lord Justices Lindley and Rigby were of opinion that the liability was limited to £15 per ton. The Lords Law-lords (Herschell, Macnaghten, Morris, Shand, and Davey) unanimously affirmed the decision of the Court of Appeal, and dismissed the appeal with costs.

MR. BALFOUR AT EDINBURGH.

IN PRAISE OF ATHLETICS.

Mr. A. J. Balfour, M.P., on 19th November opened a bazaar in the Music Hall, Edinburgh, in connection with a scheme to provide a field for physical exercise and recreation for students of the University of Edinburgh, of which he is Chancellor. Mr. Balfour said he was there to plead, not for a university luxury, but for a university necessity. He hear some persons talk one would think athletics was a kind of parasitic growth upon modern educational institutions. He did not take that view. He held there were some subjects of academic study of great repute, of historical standing, of which he could claim to be equal in educational efficiency to some of the academic pursuits so confidently followed both in England and Scotland. Patience, sobriety, courage, temper, discipline, subordination—all these were virtues necessary for the highest excellence in golf, cricket, or football. A modern university did not end its influence with fostering a love of knowledge or giving a professional training. It gave a man throughout life a sense that he belonged to a great community in which the best spirits lived, and nothing fostered this feeling more surely than athletic sports.

A NEW AND AMUSING MILLAIS ANECDOTE.

An old friend of Sir John Millais sends to the *Chronicle* the following new and amusing story of the late President of the Royal Academy: "I found myself seated one evening at a rather grand dinner (so Sir John used sometimes to tell the story) next to a very pretty gushing girl to whom I had not been introduced. She fired into conversation directly she had finished her soup, and as it was May began with the inevitable question, 'I suppose you've been to the Academy?' I replied that I had. 'And did you notice the Millais? Didn't you think they were awful daubs? I can't imagine how such things ever get hung!—' She was going on gaily in the same strain, while I sat silent, when suddenly the amused smiles of those round her and the significant hush brought her to a sudden stop. She coloured rather painfully and whispered to me in a frightened voice, 'For heaven's sake, what have I done? Have I said anything dreadful? Do tell me.' 'Not now,' I replied; 'eat your dinner in peace, and I'll tell you by-and-by.' She did so, rather miserably, vainly trying to extract from me at intervals what the matter was, and when dessert came I filled up her glass with champagne and told her to gulp it down very quickly while I counted three. She obeyed without protest, and I took the opportunity when she couldn't speak to say, 'Well, I am Millais. But let's be friends!'"

Havana Tobacco: Summer Evenings.—The real perfume of Havana in Dixon's Bonanza Cigars. 4 Bonanza Cigars in packet, 6d.—[Advt.]

SCHOOL VACATIONS.

A successful concert was given on the 21st instant at the North Sydney School of Arts by the pupils of the Willoughby Public School in aid of the piano fund. A lengthy and varied programme was much appreciated by a large audience. The first part was opened with a chorus by the pupils, "Federation," which was heartily received. Action songs, Maypole dances, dumbbell exercises, floral marches, physical drills, manual and firing exercises, songs, &c., helped to pass a very pleasant evening. Mrs. Alexander Gilchrist gave an excellent pianoforte solo and also acted as accompanist. Mr. Alexander Gilchrist (head-master) was assiduous in attending to the wants of the visitors.

The school conducted by the Sisters of St. Joseph in the central township, North Shore, held its annual exhibition last week. The schoolroom was daintily decorated and there was a numerous gathering. Father Brennan addressed those assembled and congratulated both the sisters and their pupils on the results of the year's work, after which he distributed the prizes, the non-prizetakers being generously presented with a gift each.

On Tuesday the pupils of the Bracondale School, Petersham, were entertained by their teachers, the Misses Haviland, at a breaking-up party. The Rev. J. M. Goddard, who referred to the school as a second home for the pupils, presented the prizes. The head prize, a handsome silver medal, was gained by Rubie Rowley.

On the 18th instant, Miss R. Moniz, principal of St. Hilier's, Stanmore, invited the parents and friends of her pupils to the breaking-up. There was a kindergarten exhibition and lessons given under the supervision of Franklin Kanemen. Drilling, action songs, &c., being gone through by the little ones. Maisie Hamilton, Ulric Sheldon, Mabel Lyons, and Daisy Hindle answering promptly and intelligently in the oral lessons, the latnamed gaining the prize for the best kindergarten work during the term. And so that they might not be disappointed each child was presented with a Christmas toy. Later the school hall was crowded to see the prizes presented to the upper school, the principal event of the day. The Rev. R. B. Goddard presided, and Mrs. Goddard handed the rewards to the prize-winners, among whom were—F. Chamier, M. Jopling, T. Moore, N. Angus, F. Welch, H. Symonds, H. Goodwin, D. Clemens, and K. Solomon. The good conduct prize falling to M. M'Swinney, and music to C. Sheldon.

The pupils of Miss Banks, of the Glebe, gave an entertainment on Tuesday evening in St. John's Schoolroom in aid of the parochial fund of St. John's Church, Bishopthorpe. The programme embraced a number of part songs, solos, recitations, duets, &c., by the pupils and amateurs, and also the rendering of the Cantata, "The White Garland."

The annual distribution of medals, certificates, and prizes in connection with Queen's College, Summer Hill, took place on the 21st instant in the presence of a large gathering. The students acquitted themselves admirably in going through some calisthenic exercises under the direction of Mr. Renshaw, of the Y.M.C.A. The kindergarten children also showed excellent training, both in their drill and games. After a brief address the Rev. John Vaughan distributed the prizes as follows:—

Medals:—Dux of school, May Walton; dux of class 4, Elsie Wilshire; Mr. Renshaw's medal for calisthenics, Ethe Morris. Certificates: Junior University, May Walton. Trinity College, London music—Intermediate honours: Annie Paton, Mabel Carruthers, Margarite Sutton, May Walton. Junior honours: Annie Robertson. Junior grade: Ethel Morris, Elsie Wilshire. Special Prizes, class 5: Painting, May Walton, mathematics, Ethe Morris; Scripture, Annie Robertson; Latin, A. Robertson; special prize for history, Ethel Morris, M'Kern. Class 4: Scripture and history, Elsie Wilshire; arithmetic, French, and Latin, Elsie M'Laren; geography, Nellie Gallagher; general knowledge, Elsie Wilshire; general improvement, Lotta Morris; house conduct, Susie Warden; Latin: Irene Oatley. Class 3: History, Latin arithmetic, Prince Hunter; Latin and arithmetic, Raymond Lawson; Scripture and arithmetic, Lilia Outley; writing, Jessie Morris; general improvement, Birdie Morris; reading and dictation, Florence Hunter; general improvement, Clara Lyne. Solfatian examination, Nellie Moodie; improvement in English, Lamb Morris; Scripture, Pearl Wiltshire; music, Florence Hunter; reading and geography, Irene Hamilton.

The distribution of prizes at the Girls' School, Brisbane House, Glebe Point, was made early in the week. Among the prize-winners were:—Miss Ella Cross (medallist and dux), Miss M. Watkins, Jessie R. Paterson, and Miss L. Johnson. At the close the pupils presented the principals, the Misses Harpur, with tokens of affection.

FRIENDLY SOCIETIES' DEMONSTRATION COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the executive committee for completing all arrangements for Boxing Day was held at the New Masonic Hall last evening. Mr. P. Forbes, president, was in the chair. Reports were received from the secretaries and were very encouraging. Special arrangements have been made for the traffic from the Railway Station and from Bent-street to the ground commencing at 9 o'clock and every six minutes after throughout the day. Mesgon, Payne, and Lewis will race for the league championship, and events will be run by Cameron for the Cyclists' Union. The Newcastle Naval Brigade are sending teams for several of the naval events, and, together with the naval detachments from H.M.S. Mildura, H.M.S. Royalist, H.M.S. Pleiades, and H.M.S. Dart, the New Naval Artillery Volunteers, the Scottish Rifles, the infantry regiments, and Permanent Artillery, it is expected that one of the most successful programmes of military and naval sports yet held in Sydney will be witnessed. Special provision has been made by Mr. F. Webster, secretary of the Royal Agricultural Society, for dancing, the floor of the large pavilion having been specially prepared. The public are invited to be present on the ground during the day's events, about 50 lodges having signified their intention of walking in procession to the grounds. Messrs. Loveiock and Dent's double company of adult and variety artistes have been engaged to play throughout the day, free of extra charge to the spectators, and a stage has been erected and tastefully decorated in the building on the flat known as the vehicle shed. The improvements made by the Agricultural Society since the meeting of last year will be appreciated by picnic parties, for whom hot water will be provided free. The refreshment booths have been let to the London Catering Company, and the publicans' booths to Mr. George Meatham, so that every provision has been made to meet the requirements of all classes. The Newtown Champion Brass Band will play selections on the reserve, and the Britannia Brass Band in the dance pavilion.

COMMERCIAL TRAVELLERS' ASSOCIATION.

The thirteenth annual meeting of the Commercial Travellers' Association of New South Wales, which was opened on Wednesday, was continued at the society's rooms, 173 Pitt-street, yesterday. Mr. J. F. Flockhart presided. There was again a large attendance. It was decided that the committee arrange for the publication of the official organ for 12 months. Mr. T. R. Rowlands proposed and Mr. D. R. Brown seconded a motion that the secretary's salary be increased by £25 per annum. The mover spoke in eulogistic terms of the way Mr. Borkwood had fulfilled his onerous duties. He acted as club host in the absence of the president and other officers to visitors, and was assiduous in attending to them. The appointment of Mr. Borkwood had met with general approval. The proposition was supported by Mr. W. J. Douglass and Mr. A. Brookes, and carried. Mr. Borkwood briefly returned thanks. Votes of thanks were accorded the officers and the press.

The president announced that the annual dinner, which will be held at the Australia Hotel on Tuesday next, promised to be a great success.

Officers were elected as follows:—President, Mr. J. F. Flockhart; vice-presidents, Messrs. W. A. Hudson, senr., D. R. Brown, J. H. Stanton, J. Radley, and M. I. Green; treasurer, Mr. W. J. Douglass; auditor, Mr. A. Hitchins; trustees of trust funds, Messrs. James Inglis and W. M'Millan; committee, Messrs. T. P. Street, T. R. Rowlands, R. Hall, H. Gerrard, W. R. Shanks, J. F. M'Cauland, D. W. Robb, O. Hansemann, J. S. Martin, R. S. Armstrong, A. L. Woolf, J. R. Toose, W. Walsh, C. J. Burchmore, F. Thomas.

MAKING BRICKS FROM SAND.

PLANT TO BE ERECTED NEAR SAN FRANCISCO.

According to an American paper, a great brick plant is to be established in proximity to San Francisco, which will add materially to the city's manufacturing interests, and through new methods may lead to a revolution in that important industry.

An organisation has been incorporated under the name of the California Stone Brick Company, which proposes to expend $500,000 in the purchase of a site and the erection of buildings for the manufacture of bricks from sand, no other ingredients entering into their composition than those contained in sand or earth. Plans for the kiln have been drawn, and a model is now being made for a proposed plant.

The process to be employed is that of Professor E. C. Brice, of Washington, a relative of Senator Brice. He is a prominent chemist, and has been working on his process for many years at Chicago and the national capital. In addition to the manufacture of stone brick the process includes that of firebrick-tiles, glass pots, crucibles, and gas retorts. That portion of the patent covering glass and retorts has been sold to large glassworks at Pittsburg, while the firebrick has been tested at Chicago and Cincinnati, with the result, as is claimed, that it has been found to be almost indestructible by heat.

The stone brick which it is proposed to make is manufactured from powdered stone or the elements contained in stone, such as sand, clay, &c. These substances are mixed with a prepared flux, which acts as a bond, holding in union the particles of sand or other material used as a filler, the whole being thoroughly annealed by heating.

The process of baking differs from that usually employed, in that the brick first passes into a tunnel on cars, being left for four hours exposed to the heat therein. They are then passed on the cars into a second tunnel or annealing furnace, where they remain for three hours. From the time that the sand is taken from the bank until the bricks are turned out is only 10 hours, and there is only one handling—that when the bricks are "hacked" on the cars.

With the vast amount of sand near San Francisco this process obviates the necessity of going to remote points in search of the material required for the ordinary bricks, thereby saving the expense of transportation. The stone bricks are made in red, yellow, blue, and pure white.

Among the advantages claimed for the Brice brick is the saving of time, only 10 hours being needed for their manufacture, instead of eight to 30 days; a much less consumption of fuel, scarcely any loss from burning, a crushing strength of from 10,000 to 45,000 lb. to the square inch instead of from 400 to 4000

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.—December 24.

Peregrine (s.), 1660 tons, Captain J. Pain, from Brisbane 22nd instant. Passengers—Mesdames J. Kensey, Congleton 2 children, Garton, Chandler, Martin, Desmond 2 children, Palmerston 1 child, Glynn, Ward, Moppet, Host, Misses Bennetts, Doe, Munford, Morgan, Long, Emery, Messrs. Allpass, Setters, Moon, M'Laughlan, Moppet, Row, J. Kensey, S. Popham, B. A. Skilton, L. Ryan, R. Fleming, W. Stephenson, N. Anderson, T. A. White, O. Bridge, Benjamin, W. Heatham, E. P. Senecold, W. Baentt, Masters Bennetts, Kensey, Mehan, and 101 in the steerage. William Howard Smith and Sons, Limited, agents.

Wyrallah (s.), 302 tons, Captain Todd, from New Hebrides. Passengers—Mr. and Mrs. Christensen, Messrs. Higgs, Townson, Hammerhill, and De François. Burns, Philp, and Co., Limited, agents.

Australian (s.), 300 tons, Captain W. B. Nelson, from Port Macquarie 23rd December. Passengers—Mrs. Russell, Mrs. Morris, Messrs. R. Russell, E. Fenn, H. Henry, A. Thearle, F. N. Walcot, W. N. Jones, H. Kyle, and 3 in the second cabin. North Coast S. N. Company, Limited, agents.

Oonah (s.), 1767 tons, Captain W. J. Featherstone, from Hobart. Passengers—Mesdames Wilkinson, Hutchins, M'Kenzie, A. H. Starr, Gluckie, Tamkser, Coverdale, Jarry, A. Nixon, Gillespie, Misses Rogers, Proctor, E. Angus, M'Kenzie, Mills, Montgomery, Rae, Kennedy (2), Johnston, Cartwright, Messrs. A. Holdsworth, E. Bibby, J. Westbrook, W. A. M'Parlane, W. Ross, Saunders, Kennedy, S. C. Frees, J. Gatty, A. Nixon, Gillespie, G. Hurst, A. R. Angus, Isherwood, J. P. Montgomery, J. G. Silly, Hutchins, M'Quinn, Blackwood, A. H. Collier, A. Stephens, F. J. Henry, F. E. Henry, J. Roberts, Turner, Mrs. Ellis and family, Pierce, Miss Buhan, Messrs. Ellis, Sly, Turner, Espie, Pickering, Brown, White. F. W. Jackson, agent.

Hauroto (s.), 1988 tons, Captain A. Anderson, from Port Kembla. F. W. Jackson, agent.

Sydney (s.), 634 tons, Captain Cosgran, from Newcastle. Newcastle and Hunter River S.S. Company, agents.

Newcastle (s.), 1251 tons, Captain Thompson, from Newcastle. Newcastle and Hunter River S.S. Company, agents.

Rosedale (s.), 234 tons, Captain Paulson, from Bellinger River. Passengers—Messrs. J. Barrie, W. Wills, M. R. Frune, S. Davis, A. Simpson, A. Sullivan, W. Richard. North Coast S. N. Company, Limited, agents.

Coraki (s.), 398 tons, Captain S. Boulden, from Manning River 24th December. Passengers—Mesdames Stinson, Donaldson, Cause, Holden, and Allen, Misses Whitbread, M'Neal, M'Lean, Gill, Messrs. Stinson, Osborne, W. Smith, W. J. Danes, Riley, J. Osborne, W. Norton, J. A. Roberts, A. Robson, Cause, Wilkie, Masters Johnson and Hanseman, and 6 in the steerage. North Coast S. N. Company, Limited, agents.

Eurimbla (s.), 1055 tons, Captain James Watt, from Rockhampton, via ports. Passengers—Mesdames Sharp and child, J. A. Stewart, Sheldon, Barrett, Doughty, Le Vaux, Misses Knopp, Wright, Stanton, Le Vaux, Doughty, Messrs. J. Sugden, F. Elliott, Sheldon, Barrett, Huybers, Cameron, Connors, D. Foley, J. W. Looke, R. Frusby, W. H. Baird, Rev. Brother Dennis, Master Sheldon, and 32 in the steerage. Burns, Philp, and Co., Limited, agents.

Waitemata, three-masted schooner, 365 tons, Captain Nillson, from Kaipara December 19. Kauri Timber Company, Limited, agents.

Tomki (s.), 398 tons, Captain H. Jackson, from Richmond River 23rd December. Passengers—Mesdames Williams, Lexton, Ansley, Misses Walsh (2), Lexton, Statham, Messrs. Burgess, Lee, Cottee (2), Blanch, Smith, Anstey, Wheatley, Capes, Bridge, Lustard, Atteaave, Ashley, Clarke, Johnson, Jeffrey, and 13 in the steerage. North Coast S. N. Company, Limited, agents.

Allowrie (s.), 507 tons, Captain G. Walker, from Eden, via ports, 23rd December. Passengers—Mesdames Strongbridge, Kiely, Lake, M'Gregor, Collins, Misses Beaumont, Bailey, Curley, Collins, Otten, Sisters St. Joseph (5), Messrs. Turner, Capper, Harper, Kerney, Clarke, Boshall, Sullivan, Burns, Daunt, Fitzgerald (2), Lake, Patten, Smith, Foremare, and 13 in the steerage. Illawarra S.N. Company, Limited, agents.

DEPARTURES.—December 24.

Mararoa (s.), for Wellington.
Burrumbeet (s), for Melbourne.
Peregrine (s.), for Melbourne.
Hauroto (s.), for Launceston.
Menmuir (s.), for Melbourne.
Defiance, barquentine, for Kiapara, via Newcastle.

PROJECTED DEPARTURES.—December 25.

Illawarra S. N. Company's steamers, for Wollongong, Kiama, and Shoalhaven; Sydney (s.), for Newcastle.

CLEARANCES.—December 24.

Mararoa (s.), 2465 tons, Captain H. W. H. Chatfield, for Wellington and ports. Passengers—Mr. and Mrs. F. D. Brown, Mr. and Mrs. T. H. Williams, Mr. and Mrs. Fampson, Mr. and Mrs. Keys and family, Mr. and Mrs. Loxton and infant, Mr. and Mrs. Roche, Mr. and Mrs. Hurtz, Mesdames Whitton, Guy, Freeman, Bastings and child, J. Hardcastle, S. Higgs, Haswell, Misses Gorles, Green, Higgins, Whitton, E. Lamb, Fraser (2), Cupples, Hullett, Collins, Kirth, Hunter, Messrs. Tedlow, M'Quade and son, Acland, A. A. Hughes, Burnside, Holdsworth, W. F. Clayton, W. Menning, A. M'Neil, Liverison, A. Henry, H. Bastings, T. Fraser, R. Roxborough, A. J. Simpson, R. Roberts, W. Baird, Dr. Fidstead, Professor Haswell, Professor Threlfall, and 25 in the steerage.

Hauroto (s.), 1988 tons, Captain A. Anderson, for Launceston and Devonport, via Eden. Passengers—Mr. and Mrs. Margetts and family, Mr. and Mrs. M'Coy, Mesdames Solomon, Dora Wright, Warne-Smith, Misses Evans, Sadis, Reeves (2), Uther, Pearse (2), Schraner, Bluett, Fowles, Harris, Messrs. Williams, Totterdell, Densley, Rollinson, Rock, Russell, N. Waddell, Griffith, Kylnack, Murphy, George Lloyd, Kennedy, Diamond, Taylor, Hales, Cohen (2), Cohen, Uther, Nicholson, Rev. A. H. Champion, and 11 in the steerage.

Oonah (s.), 1757 tons, Captain W. J. Featherstone, for Hobart. Passengers—Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Tooth, Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Burns and child, Mr. and Mrs. R. M'Millan, Mr. and Mrs. Wilkinson, Sir Charles and Lady Lilley, Mesdames Henwood and 2 children, Overell and son, O'Neill, Martyn, Ed. Lowe, Stevenson and infant, Wolstenholme, Torrane, Glasse, Ford, Pendergast and maid, Ormati, O'Neil, Buller and infant, M'Millan, Misses Wolstenholme, Fox, Capper (2), Sparke, Hammond, Font, Richards, Toribieran, Ford, Fitzgerald, Condran, Bamfield, Murphy (2), Cowper, Lilly (3), Saunders, Dickinson, Thomas, Schnider, Fisher, J. Wiseman, Ormati, O'Neil, Kilgannon, O'Brien (2), Slater, Richards, Naylor, Baynton, J. Slater, Capper, Hester, Parker, Wilson, Young, M'Intosh, Ormati, Moore, Hamilton, Clark, White, Messrs. G. Morgan, Waterhouse (3), Brennand, D. M'Master, A. A. King, Hy. Smith, L. Smith, Lisson, Willis, Bain, B. W. Ford, W. Wiseman, Weideman, Glasse, Remnitzer, R. E. Gilles and son, M'Donald, Wolstenholme, J. Young, Binns, Wild, Alf. Cole, Elliott, Ed. Lowe, M'Master, A. W. Gregory, Gregor, Clarkson, Law, Baker, Hon. J. Want and man servant, Beaver, Beaver, F. Gardner, R. Robinson, Grant, Hobson, Poole, Charles, Pendergast and sons, Strong, Buckland, White, Pinnock, J. Lisson, G. Reynolds, Reddish, Smith, Tomkys, J. Lene, H. Ellis, Font, F. Hayes, Power, Jones, Gullock, Emmett, M'Creary, Lane, Dr. Anderson.

Peregrine (s.), 1650 tons, Captain John Pain, for Melbourne. Passengers—Misses Brunett (2), Master Brunett, Miss A. Dynan, Miss Fraser, Mr. H. R. Chandler, Mrs. Fraser, Mrs. Heaney and 2 children, Mr. W. Harrison, Mr. J. M'Carthy, Mr. C. J. Allpress, Mr. N. Ball, Mr. Collins Simson, Mr. Simson, Mr. Atkinson, Mr. George Ellis, Mr. and Mrs. Eyre, Mr. C. W. Node, Mr. Berthwell, Mr. Cooke, Mr. A. Pearman, Mr. and Mrs. Kinley, Mr. A. H. Bow, Miss Beardwell, also 3 in the second cabin.

Burrumbeet (s.), for Melbourne. Passengers—Mesdames Nicholas, Wyllie, J. Dart, Wilson and 2 children, Misses K. Brown, Jeacocke, D. Connell, A. Long, R. Long, A. S. Jamieson, Messrs. Gannon, F. Garland, P. Young, Jas. Dart, J. M. Duncan, T. Little, F. Oliver, J. H. Thompson, R. N. Strode, J. London, J. Enright, A. W. Rooke, Heybern, Jeacocke, R. Gibson, Nicholas, and 15 in the steerage.

Cam (s.), 3002 tons, Captain Shaw, for Dunkirk, Antwerp, Hamburg, and Hull.

Denton Grange (s.), 5450 tons, Captain W. A. Williams, for London and Havre, via Melbourne and River Plate.

Menmuir (s.), 1980 tons, Captain Hugh Craig, for Melbourne, with part original cargo. Passengers—Mr. and Mrs. Roach and 3 children, Mr. Bonguer.

Taiynan (s.), 2269 tons, Captain B. Nelson, for Melbourne, with part original cargo.

Vigeland, barque, 819 tons, Captain Thorsen, for Fremantle.

Defiance, brigantine, 198 tons, Captain Russell, for Kaipara, via Newcastle, in ballast.

Craigiee (s.), 1921 tons, Captain W. B. Blown, for Dunkirk and Antwerp, via ports.

COASTERS OUTWARD.—December 24.

Annie, ketch, Captain J. B. Smith, for Cape Hawke; Hilda, schooner, Captain C. Johnstone, for Port Stephens.

IMPORTS.—December 24.

[A special charge is made for consignees' notices in this column.]

Peregrine (s.), from Brisbane: 852 bunches bananas, 40 cases pines, 4 cases birds, 80 casks tallow, 20 bales sheepskins, 1500 bags sugar, 2 live turtles, 250 bales wool, 420 bags bones and horns, 1400 hides, 45 bags hides, 7 crates watermelons, 100 cases fruit, 12 bundles kangarooskins, and a quantity of sundries, also a quantity of cargo for southern ports.

Rosedale (s.), from Bellinger River: 1237 bags maize, 4 bags oysters, 5 cases eggs, 4 coops fowls, 4 kegs butter, 7 pigs, 3 cans cream, 35 bags bark, and sundries.

Balmain (s.), from Queensland ports: 3950 bags sugar.

Australian (s.), from Port Macquarie: 2102 bags maize, 11 bags oysters, 2 bales wool, 7 cases eggs, 10 cases honey, 3 coops poultry, 2 kegs butter, 8 cans cream, 4 pigs, and sundries.

Wyrallah (s.), from New Hebrides: 380 bags copra, 24 cases orchids.

Oonah (s.), from Hobart: 630 cases fruit, 50 cases hops, 50 cases jams, 10,500 staves, 404 bales wool, 112 bags malt, 183 bags fruit, 105 bags fruit, 18 casks fruit, 25 buckets fruit, 26 crates fruit, and quantity sundries.

Coraki (s.), from Manning River: 541 bags maize, 7 bags wheat, 40 bags oysters, 37 bags potatoes, 2 bales tobacco, 92 cases eggs, 16 cases honey, 30 coops 20 boxes poultry, 36 hides, 26 cans cream, 2 kegs 82 boxes butter, 17 pieces cedar, 39 pigs, and 36 packages sundries.

Eurimbla (s.), from Queensland ports: 156 bales wool, 319 bags sugar, 1 box gold, 27 tierces tallow, 217 hides, 29 bales sheepskins, 9 bales marsupial skins, 10 cases syrup, 34 cases tomatoes, 38 cases dates, 30 cases arrowroot, 10 cases pineapples, 20 coils coir yarn, 10 cases hams, and cargo for New Zealand and southern ports.

Waitemata, schooner, from Kaipara: 303,455ft. timber.

Allowrie (s.), from Eden and ports: 1726 cheese, 36 cans cream, 557 cases butter, 67 kegs butter, 591 bags bark, 145 bales wool, 3 casks tallow, 4 bales leather, 7 pigs, and a quantity of sundries.

Tomki (s.), from Richmond River: 50 bags maize, 1000 sacks sugar, 9 sacks oysters, 7 sacks pumpkins, 30 sacks potatoes, 3 bales skins, 80 cases eggs, 2 cases fish, 2 casks tallow, 5 coops poultry, 20 horses, 30 hides, 400 cases 12 kegs butter, 7 pine logs, 5 logs cedar, and 20,000ft. boxwood, and sundries.

EXPORTS.—December 24.

Cam (s.), for Dunkirk, Hamburg, Antwerp, and Hull: 4257 bales wool.

Denton Grange (s.), for London and Havre: 1808 bales wool, 25 bales leather, 227 bales sheepskins, 74 bales furskins, 227 bales 25 rolls leather, 282 bags shank bones, 2 bales hair, 100 bales basils, 17 bags gum, 14 cases eucalyptus oil, 88,941 carcases mutton. From Bowen: 206 bales wool, 21 casks tallow, 289 hides, 99 bags copra, 12,104 pieces beef, 386 packages tongues, 22 casks oil, 144 tierces beef, 3002 tons ore.

Vigeland, barque, for Fremantle: 2158 doors, 6,128 pieces timber, 1000 boxes candles, 1120 bags bran, 70 bags pollard, 71,484 bricks.

Craigiee (s.), for Dunkirk and Antwerp, via ports: 5589 bales wool and original cargo from Adelaide which comprised 607 bales wool 100 bales skins and 3054 bags ore.

Burrumbeet (s.), for Melbourne: 2150 tons coal, 15 hogsheads white spirit, 4 packages tea, 57 bags broken glass, 4 cases gravestones, 32 casks asphalt, 119 casks tallow, 1 case bicycle, 8 bundles sacks, 450 boxes tinplates, 282 bales wool, 242 packages maize, 28 tons coke, 40 kegs cream of tartar, 19 bales rags, 2 cases leather, 185 hides, 2 cases mowing machine, 117 ingots copper, 3 kegs bluestone, 2 kegs magnesia, 4 cases boots, and sundries.

TELEGRAPHIC SHIPPING NEWS.

YAMBA.—Arrival: December 24, City of Grafton (s.), from Sydney.

NEWCASTLE.—Arrivals: December 24, Zilma, ketch, from Trial Bay; Namoi (s.), Lubra (s.), Saxonia (s.), Timaru (s.), Macleay (s.), Oonah (s.), Kallatina (s.), Garron, schooner, from Sydney. Departures: December 24, Rotokino (s.), for Lyttelton, with 2820 tons coal; Rencontrant, barque, for Tartarallie, with 1643 tons coal; Era (s.), for Melbourne, with 3900 tons coal; Lady Mabel, schooner, for Napier, with 275 tons coal; Bucephalus (s.), for Singapore, via Melbourne, with 1800 tons coal; Santa Clara, barque, for San Francisco, with 1981 tons coal; Lindus (s.), for Adelaide, with 2220 tons coal; Timaru (s.), Saxonia (s.), Lubra (s.), Kallatina (s.), Namoi (s.), Garron, schooner, Minora, brig, for Sydney; Macleay (s.), for the Richmond River.

GABO ISLAND.—Passed: December 24, Tyrian (s.) at 4.15 p.m., north.

MELBOURNE.—Arrivals: R.M.S. Oroya, from London; Melbourne (s.), from Newcastle. A telegram from Cape Schanck this evening reports the steamers Glaucus, Marloo, and Barrabool passing inward. Departures: December 24, Royal Tar, barque, for Newcastle; Buninyong (s.), for Western Australia; Coogee (s.), for Launceston; Grafton (s.), for Strahan; Arawatta (s.), for Sydney and Queensland ports.

ADELAIDE.—Arrivals: December 24, Ballarat (s.), from Melbourne; Tagliaferro (s.), from Newcastle. Departures: December 24, Rockton (s.), for Melbourne; Wendouree (s.), for Newcastle; Flinders (s.), for Esperance Bay.

(FROM THE BOARD AT THE TELEGRAPH OFFICE.)

BYRON BAY.—Arrival: December 23, Wollumbin (s.) during night, from Sydney.

RICHMOND HEADS.—Arrival: December 24, Prosperity, schooner, at 12.5 p.m., and Wyoming (s.) at 1.5 p.m. 9ft. on bar, 8ft. inside channel. Departure: December 24, Eliza Allen, schooner, at 12.5 p.m.

CLARENCE HEADS.—Arrival: December 24, City of Grafton (s.), at 5 a.m., from Sydney.

WOOLGOOLGA.—Passed: December 24, Augusta (s.), at 2 p.m., north.

BELLINGER RIVER.—Departures: December 24, Bessie Maud, schooner, and Jane Morehead, ketch, at 11.30 a.m., for Sydney.

NAMBUCCA HEADS.—Departure: December 24, Bellbird, ketch, at 12.20 p.m.

MACLEAY HEADS.—Departures: December 24, Garfield, schooner, at 10 a.m.; Burrawong (s.), at 10.10 a.m.

PORT MACQUARIE.—Departures: December 24, Triumph, ketch, at 10.5 a.m., for Sydney; Sir George, ketch, at 1.40 p.m.

TACKING POINT.—Passed: December 24, Burrawong (s.), at 3 p.m., south.

CAMDEN HAVEN.—December 24, Lucretia, schooner, bar bound.

PORT STEPHENS.—Passed: December 24, Tomki (s.), and Billie Barlow (s.), at 12.30 p.m., south; Oaklands (s.), at 2.40 p.m., south.

BARRANJOEY.—Arrivals: December 24, Ena, yacht, at 7.40 a.m., Midget (s.) at 1.40 p.m. Departures: December 24, Kingsley (s.) at 4.40 p.m.

BELLAMBI.—Arrival: December 24, Egmont (s.) at 8 a.m., from Sydney.

PORT KEMBLA.—Arrival: December 24, Palmerston (s.) at 6 a.m., from Sydney.

CROOKHAVEN HEADS.—Departure: December 24, Illawarra (s.) at 8.15 a.m., for Sydney. Arrival: December 24, Coonanderry (s.) at 3 a.m., from Sydney.

MORUYA.—Arrivals: December 24, Murray (s.) and Koonya (s.) at 10 a.m., from Sydney.

GABO ISLAND.—Passed: December 24, Tyrian (s.) at 4.15 p.m., north.

WILSON'S PROMONTORY.—Passed inwards: December 24, Glaucus (s.) at 12.10 a.m., Marloo (s.) at 9.45 a.m., Barrabool (s.) at 11.50, La Serena (s.) at 1.35 p.m. Passed outwards: December 24, a small cutter at 4 a.m., a barque at 4.30 a.m. Stassfurt (s.) put into Waterloo Bay for shelter at 7.15 a.m.

HOBART.—Arrival: December 24, Talune (s.) at 7.30 a.m., from Melbourne.

LOW HEAD (TAS.).—Arrival: December 24, Pateena (s.) at 10.5 a.m., from Melbourne.

ALBANY (W.A.).—Arrival: December 24, Oceana, R.M.S., at 5.30 a.m., from Colombo.

FREMANTLE (W.A.).—Departure: December 23, Argus (s.), for Sydney, via Adelaide.

GERALDTON (W.A.).—Arrival: December 23, Orpheus (s.), from Fremantle.

(For Continuation of Shipping see Page 6.)

METEOROLOGICAL REPORTS.

Observatory, Thursday.

Average annual rainfall for 37 years, 50·054.
Average for 38 years from 1st January to 30th November, 47·281.
Total rainfall from 1st January, 1896, to 24th December, 42·391.
Sydney standard barometer at 9 a.m. to-day, 30·024; 9 p.m., 29·963.
Humidity: 9 a.m., 64°.
Temperature: Maximum, 78°; minimum, 62°; 9 p.m., 72°.

STATE OF BAROMETERS AT 9 A.M.

Esperance Bay, 30·04; Eucla, 30·07; Streaky Bay, 29·92; Adelaide, 29·99; Robe, 29·93; Portland, 29·98; Melbourne, 29·98; Wilson's Promontory, 29·93; Gabo Island, 29·99; Cape St. George, 29·01; Sydney, 29·02; Newcastle, 29·03; Port Macquarie, 29·14; Clarence Heads, 29·08; Brisbane, 29·05; Rockhampton, 29·03; Mackay, 29·00; Cooktown, 29·96.

SYNOPSIS AT 9 A.M. BY MR. H. C. RUSSELL, GOVERNMENT ASTRONOMER.

New South Wales.—Fine and clear throughout.
Western Australia.—Fine in the south-west.
South Australia.—Cloudy on the south coastline, otherwise mostly fine and clear.
Victoria and Straits.—Cloudy to overcast in coastal districts; fine elsewhere.
Tasmania.—Cloudy in the north; fine in the south.
Queensland.—Generally fine, with scattered clouds.
Central and Northern Australia.—Hot and fine generally.
New Zealand.—Fine and clear generally.
New Caledonia.—Fine, but cloudy, at Gomen; overcast at Noumea.

RIVER REPORTS AT 9 A.M.

Albury, 1ft. 3in.; Balranald, 2ft. 4in.; Bingara, 3ft. falling; Bourke, low; Brewarrina, low; Euabalong, 3ft., falling; Euston, 9ft. 6in.; Forbes, 2ft. 1in., stationary; Goodooga, 2ft. 6in., rising; Gundagai, 1ft. 9in., stationary; Hay, 1ft. 3in.; Hillston, 6ft. 6in., falling; Louth, low; Manilla, low; Menindie, 3ft. 5½in.; Mogil Mogil, 10ft. 2in., falling; Mungundi, 12ft. 5in., falling; Pooncarie, 3ft. 7½in.; Tilpa, 2ft. 6in., stationary; Tocumwal, 2ft. 9in.; Wagga Wagga, 1ft.; Wentworth, 4ft. 11½in.; Wilcannia, 2ft. 10½in.; Yetman, 3ft. 6in., falling; Barwon River at Walgett, 12ft. 6in., rising; Namoi River at Walgett, 5ft., rising.

COASTAL WEATHER REPORTS AT 9 P.M.

Tweed Heads, S.E., strong, fine, sea moderate; Byron Bay, S.E., fine, sea smooth; Ballina, N.E., light, fine, sea smooth; Clarence Heads, S.S.W., fine, sea moderate; Woolgoolga, N.E., light, fine, sea smooth; Bellinger Heads, N.E., fresh, fine, sea smooth; Nambucca Heads, N.E., light, fine, sea moderate; Macleay Heads, N.E., light, fine, sea smooth; Port Macquarie, N.E., light, fine, sea smooth; Manning Heads, N.E., fresh, fine, sea smooth; Seal Rocks, N.E., fresh, fine, sea moderate; Port Stephens, N.E., strong, fine, sea moderate; Newcastle, N.E., light, fine, sea smooth; Barranjoey, N.E., light, fine, sea smooth; South Head, N.E., moderate, fine, sea smooth; Wollongong, S., strong, squally, sea moderate; Bulli, southerly burster; Kiama, S., strong, cloudy, sea smooth; Crookhaven Heads, S., fresh, cloudy, sea smooth; Jervis Bay, S.E., fresh, cloudy, sea rising; Ulladulla, S., light, fine, sea moderate; Bateman's Bay, calm, cloudy, sea smooth; Moruya, S.E., fresh, fine, sea smooth; Eden, calm, fine, hazy, sea smooth; Green Cape, S., light, dull, hazy, sea slight; Gabo Island, S.W., light, cloudy, hazy, sea smooth.

FORECASTS AT 1 P.M.

New South Wales.—N.E. winds, changing to south, this (Thursday) evening, southerly winds on Friday and Saturday, cloudy, but little or no rain.—H.C. Russell.

SPECIAL FORECASTS FOR AUSTRALASIA AND OCEANA BY MR. A. W. ANDERSON, FOR FOUR DAYS.

New South Wales.—Electric disturbances and rain inland, and travelling eastward.
Western Australia.—Fine generally; showers on the southern coast before Monday.
Northern Territory.—Unsettled, with scattered thunderstorms and rain.
South Australia.—Isolated thunderstorms and rain inland; showers on the coast; hot and sultry in the interior.
Queensland.—Fine weather expected for the greater part of the period, with fresh to strong S.E. to E. and N.E. winds in the eastern districts; in the far west thunderstorms are developing, and will travel eastward.
Victoria.—Showers and squalls on the coast, improving by Monday; fine inland, and cool.
New Zealand.—Squally in the far south; fine elsewhere.
New Caledonia.—Cloudy to showery.

ASTRONOMICAL MEMORANDA FOR FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25.

Sun rises at 4.45, sets at 7.6; Moon, 10.45 p.m., 9.14 a.m.; Mercury, 5.46 a.m., 8.13 p.m.; Venus, 7.57 a.m., 9.43 p.m.; Mars, 5.42 p.m., 3.22 a.m.; Jupiter, 10.47 p.m., 10.7 a.m.; Saturn, 2.27 a.m., 4.8 p.m.
High water at Fort Denison, 11.48 a.m., — p.m.
New Moon, 5th; Full Moon, 20th.

THE MAILS.

THIS DAY.

South Australia.—Overland; Victoria.—Overland; Queensland.—Overland — 9 a.m.
Launceston and Hobart, via Melbourne.—Pateena, 9 a.m.
Java and Singapore, via Melbourne.—Bucephalus, 9 a.m.

SATURDAY.

Macleay River.—Burrawong, 9 a.m.
Richmond River.—Tomki, 9 a.m.
Port Macquarie and Nambucca River.—Australian, 9 a.m.
Hobart and Launceston.—Oonah, 9 a.m.
Brisbane.—Tyrian, 9 a.m.
Clarence and Richmond Rivers.—Kallatina, 9 a.m.
Bellinger River.—Rosedale, 9 a.m.
Manning River.—Coraki, 9 a.m.

MONDAY.

Eden.—Bega, 11 a.m.
Solomon Islands.—Chittoor, 1 p.m.
India, Mauritius, and Continent of Europe.—Overland to Adelaide, and thence per Rome, 2.30 p.m.
United Kingdom.—Overland to Adelaide, and thence per Rome, 3 p.m.
R.M.S. Rome (letters addressed to persons on board).—Overland to Adelaide, 3 p.m.
Western Australia, via Adelaide.—Rome, 4 p.m.
Richmond River.—Electra, 7 p.m.

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Special Advertisements.

DEATH.

FITZGERALD.—December 25, at the Bank of New South Wales, Mary, relict of the late Thomas Fitzgerald, aged 72 years.

DINNEFORD'S FLUID MAGNESIA.

DINNEFORD'S FLUID MAGNESIA,
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THIS WEEK'S
SYDNEY MAIL,
FOR DECEMBER 26.
NOW READY,
CONTAINS AMONG OTHER ILLUSTRATIONS THE FOLLOWING:
REHEARSING FOR THE PANTOMIME AT HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.
A SERIES OF SKETCHES, BY Mr. HORMAN HARDY
THE DISASTER TO THE R.M.S. OROTAVA.
A FINE PICTURE OF THE NOBLE VESSEL.
A BIRD'S-EYE VIEW OF THE TILBURY DOCKS WHERE THE OROTAVA SANK.
DESCRIPTION OF THE DOCKS AND THE ACCIDENT.
NATIONAL SHIPWRECK RELIEF SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES.
An historical account of this Society is published in the issue of the MAIL, together with the proceedings of the public meeting held in the Town Hall on the 14th instant, Accompanied by
A GROUP OF PORTRAITS OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE ELECTED IN 1877.
Portraits of CAPTAIN POPPY, of the British Ship Aristides; Mr. J. H. STOREY, Chairman of the N.S.R. Society, and CAPTAIN A. WEBBER, Hon. Sec. of the Society.
FORTHCOMING WEDDING:
PORTRAITS OF CAPTAIN A. F. H. FERGUSON AND THE HON. MARGARET BRAND.
PORTRAIT OF THE LATE FRED. BARNARD, ARTIST, AND SPECIMENS OF HIS WORK AS A CARICATURIST.
DECORATING NELSON'S COLUMN, TRAFALGAR-SQUARE.
MERINO SHEEP IN THE NORTH-WEST.
PORTRAIT OF THE NEW ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY.
EFFECTS OF ILL-PLAYING, ILLUSTRATED.
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WANTED, an Educated MAN, familiar with actuarial work in a life assurance office, must be a ready correspondent, quick at figures, book-keeping, and pass a satisfactory medical examination; none others need apply. Applications will be treated strictly confidential. Address, giving full particulars, age, experience, where employed, references, &c., Box 1276, G.P.O., Sydney, N.S.W.

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THREE GOOD DRINKS.
WALKER'S WHISKY, QUEEN'S ALE, ROSBACH MINERAL WATER.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS.

During the holiday time the *Sydney Morning Herald* can be posted direct from this office to persons desirous of having it sent to them to any part of this colony at the rate of 6d per week; or Victoria, South Australia, Queensland, New Zealand, or Tasmania at 9d per week.

SYDNEY MORNING HERALD

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LETTER BOX 506, GENERAL POST OFFICE, SYDNEY.

The Sydney Morning Herald.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25, 1896.

On the 9th of December the Union steamer Taupo signalled the four-masted ship Swanhilda, 16 miles south of L'Esperance rock, Kermadec Islands.

Captain M'Beth sent a boat on board with a file of the papers containing the latest reports of the Glenbrook mystery.

He also warned the captain of the Swanhilda that the authorities suspected that the murderer had shipped in his vessel.

The Swanhilda reported having encountered a succession of head winds since leaving Newcastle, and that all on board were well.

Lord Salisbury has refused to grant a request that Parliament should be asked to vote a sum for the relief of the Armenians, as he considers that public charity is sufficient to provide relief.

The Armenian Patriarch of Constantinople has refused to admit that the Armenians were solely responsible for the late troubles.

He has expressed his satisfaction with the promised reforms in Turkey, and states that the Armenians do not desire foreign assistance.

The Patriarch has declined to guarantee the entire cessation of the Armenian agitation in Constantinople, and declared that he preferred to resign rather than be held responsible for the good behaviour of the Armenians who have been amnestied.

He tendered his resignation to the Sultan, but it was not accepted.

Paris *Figaro*, which published a stinging attack upon M. Nelidoff, the Russian Ambassador at Constantinople, declares that his sole object is to maintain Russia's influence in Turkey.

The Embassies in Constantinople, including the Russian, are considering fresh proposals with regard to reforms in Turkey, and have agreed that coercion is expedient to enforce their demands.

Terrible floods have occurred in northern Greece, and many of the inhabitants have been drowned.

Mr. Duncan Gillies, Agent-General for Victoria, is to be banqueted by the St. George's Club on the 6th of January. Lord Loch will preside.

The Rev. Hugh MacMillan, of Greenock, has been elected Moderator of the Free Church of Scotland.

Colonel E. J. Saunderson, M.P. for North Armagh, has joined in the demand for the reduction of Imperial taxation in Ireland.

Mr. John Dillon, M.P. and Mr. T. M. Healey, M.P., have met to concert a scheme with Dr. Walsh, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Dublin, for dealing with the question.

Reports have been received from Manila stating that the rebels in the Philippine Islands have been victorious at Cavete and Noveta.

The Spaniards suffered heavy losses and retreated.

Mr. Richard Olney, the American Secretary of State, declares that Spain still has the power to avert a rupture with the United States without losing Cuba, if she will allow the States to settle the matter.

Amberley Cottage, the Thames riverside residence of Earl Russell at Maidenhead, has been destroyed by fire. The fire, it is believed, is the work of an incendiary.

Latest telegraphic advices from Bombay state that the bubonic plague is increasing in that city. It has also broken out at Kurrachee, in the Scinde.

Jacob Gaudaur has challenged the world to row for the sculling championship at Toronto, Canada, in June next.

He has also issued a challenge to row either C. K. Harding or J. A. Barry in England in August.

News from Ottawa states that 27 returning officers have been arrested on a charge of conspiring to defeat the popular will at the last general election of the Canadian Dominion.

The decision of the French military authorities to introduce the Canet gun in the army will probably have the effect of compelling Germany to improve her artillery at a cost of 260,000,000 marks.

There is now reason to fear that Western Australia, as well as Queensland, will not be represented at the Federal Convention, which, in this event, will consist solely of representatives from New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, and Tasmania.

Mr. R. Wittenoom, Minister for Mines, Western Australia, has been appointed the fifth delegate to represent that colony on the Federal Council.

Several cases of heat apoplexy occurred at Broken Hill yesterday, one of them terminating fatally.

A farmer named George Palmer, residing eight miles from Inverell, was bitten by a death adder yesterday, the reptile clinging to his fingers, and being removed with difficulty. The bites on his fingers were scarified, and he rode eight miles in twenty minutes to a doctor, who applied the strychnine remedy, and now there are hopes of Palmer's recovery.

The police of Perth, W.A., state that the city is invaded by a large number of criminals from the Eastern colonies, and they are believed to be well provided with spurious notes and coins.

At a meeting of the Western Australian Executive Council on Wednesday Mr. John Davis was appointed general manager of the Western Australian railways.

Mr. O'Rourke in trying to save his wife was also severely burned. His wife subsequently died from her injuries, and he himself is in a precarious state.

It is the intention of the Governor of South Australia to proceed to Tasmania on the 1st of January.

Arrangements have been made to retain E. Jones, the cricketer, in South Australia.

Scarcely anything was done in investment shares in the Stock and Share market yesterday. Prices were quoted about the same as on Wednesday.

There were no transactions in the Import market yesterday calling for special comment, there being almost a holiday aspect.

At Darling Harbour yesterday 2576 bales of wool were manifested. 911 bales arrived coastwise, and 95 were received by rail at Newcastle on Wednesday.

Yesterday the Sydney Stock Exchange only held two call meetings—morning and high 'Change—and only moderate business was done. The market for mining stocks generally may be said to have closed for the year at fairly steady rates.

The Customs revenue received yesterday amounted to £3545.

It is in keeping with the kindly old fashion of this season of the year to speak of Christmas as a time of the promise of peace. There never was a Christmas since the first preaching of Christianity when the dream was not indulged in of a time when what Sir THOMAS BROWNE alludes to as "the drums and trampings of conquest" will cease, when swords will be bent into reaping hooks, and in the words of an old verse-writer whom THACKERAY quotes, when the soldier's helmet shall become a hive for bees. We have our fanciful forecastings by a too optimistic laureate of a time when the war-drum will throb no longer, and the battle-flags will be furled in a world-wide federation. We have our peace societies, denouncing the quarrels of nations, and our international socialists teaching the proletariat to ask why it should be sacrificed at the whim of diplomatists or for the pleasure of kings. Yet we are as far from the realisation of peace as though the message was never delivered, and the Judæan shepherds never heard the song of angels in the air. Europe resounds with the note of warlike preparation, armies watch each other across neighbouring frontiers, and the dockyards ring with the noise of energetic equipment. Lest there should remain any doubt as to the meaning of these signs and portents we have such an experienced diplomatist and observer as Lord DUFFERIN gravely assuring the English world of his mature conviction that, "in spite of Christianity and civilisation—in spite of humanitarian philosophies, the triumphs of scientific knowledge—in spite of the lessons of history and the bitter experiences of the more recent past—*force* and not right is still the dominant factor in human affairs."

Those who have followed the development of European affairs during the past twelve months will be disposed to agree with this statement of the case. We have only to run over the events of the year to provide ourselves with sufficient evidences of its general truth. Force and not right was at the back of the Jameson raid, and *force* defeated it. Italy's dream of colonial empire in East Africa was backed in the same way, but the force behind MENELIK was the stronger. Right and justice were appealed to by the Armenians, but the dominant Turk replied by a display of ferocity that only culminated in the massacre of Constantinople. These were examples of the operation of the law of force in its cruder forms. But it has shown itself not less effective and dominant without bloodshed. The common instincts of humanity made the mind of Europe revolt against the Ottoman atrocities, and here if ever was an occasion when the law of right might have been expected to have its way. Civilisation prides itself on being influenced by those instincts, and the nations that lead the van of civilisation are supposed to be under special obligations to uphold the doctrine of the law of right as the primal force. We may suppose, if we will, that this was the reason behind that act of Lord SALISBURY which set the Mediterranean fleet in motion towards the Golden Horn. But once more a cruder force asserted itself. Russia had no hesitation about sacrificing those interests of humanity for which she fought in the Balkans 20 years ago to her own diplomatic interests of to-day. The question was settled without reference to the miseries of the Armenians or the misdeeds of the SULTAN, and from the point of view thus suggested the subsequent triumphal progress of the CZAR through Europe was not so much a mere visit of compliment to the nations represented at his coronation, as a demonstrative rebuke to what Lord DUFFERIN calls that kind of amiable and benevolent optimism prevalent among people who have no personal experience of the real, hard, cruel conditions of international existence.

There have been those, of course, who have not hesitated to hold to the creed that the law of force is, after all, only the operation of a higher law of right than is apparent on the face of things. We know that there are circumstances in which the application of armed force is a necessary evil, and that this short and sharp remedy is sometimes the only efficacious one when it is a question of putting a summary end to injustice. On such grounds the employment of force on behalf of the oppressed Armenians might have been defended, and it is perhaps doubtful if, in the long run, the harsh arbitrament of the sword is not a better way to settle these questions of international justice. It seems clear enough now, for instance, that the policy of BEACONSFIELD and the calling together of the Berlin Conference did much to prolong Turkish misrule and pile up the Pelion on Ossa of Turkish atrocities, even after the price of blood had been lavishly paid during the Russo-Turkish war. The advisers of the CZAR, in repeating the same diplomatic artifice, are repeating the crime or farce of temporising with the SULTAN and tacitly permitting a repetition of the Armenian massacres. Indeed, Lord DUFFERIN himself is not so much an apologist of the impeccability of diplomacy as he perhaps conceives himself to be, for we find him clearly admitting, though in a somewhat inferential way, that wars of policy have so often been the outcome of misty interests and obscure origins that in nearly every instance the exact *casus belli* is still a matter of ambiguity. This is not exactly the language of diplomacy so much as the revelation of a diplomatist out of harness; and we have only to read it in conjunction with Lord DUFFERIN'S picture of the state of things in Europe under the shadow of the war-cloud to realise the actuality of the present European situation. He describes the condition of citizens who hear mingling with the prattle of children and the tender converse of the hearth the ominous tramp of alien armies, the rattle of their artillery, and the thunder of their squadrons as they periodically gather and manœuvre within a stone's throw of the villages and open towns. This is the salient feature of the situation as the present year of grace closes; and the only sign that promises to make for international peace is the successful issue of the misunderstanding with the United States respecting Venezuela, on an arbitration basis which may or may not be more widely imitated.

In the Federal Convention there will be no representation of Queensland, and it is apparently doubtful whether Western Australia will take any part in the proceedings. The causes that have kept Queensland aloof from the federal movement are too well known to require mention. In Western Australia it is said that the dates which have been fixed for the election of representatives to the Convention would interfere with the ordinary Parliamentary elections of the colony. This, it must be admitted, is a rather thin excuse. If there were a real and widespread enthusiasm for the cause of federation, a local election would not be allowed to interfere with it. The only inference is that, as in the case of Queensland, the Government and the people of Western Australia are apathetic and indifferent in regard to the subject of federation. Were they enthusiastic in the cause they would be able to find delegates at any time in spite of the necessities of local politics. They have every right, however, to use their own option in the matter, and nobody can justly censure them on account of the attitude that they may take. But it must be noticed that, if two great colonies hold aloof from the movement, only the southern provinces of Australia will be represented in the convention. There cannot be that general representation which every lover of the federal cause desires to see. An Australian dominion is one thing, a partial federation is another. Many sacrifices might be made by the different Governments to bring the whole of the island continent under one rule, but the coming Federal Convention will be limited in its scope, and the different questions must be decided in face of the fact that a large part of Australia stands outside of the sphere of the Convention.

But although the Federal Convention will by no means be as representative as was expected, the policy of New South Wales is clear. The present movement for federation virtually began in this colony, and the Premier is now recognised as its leader throughout the whole of Australia. Former schemes, like that of the Federal Council, have practically been thrown aside, and the proposals for a more effective union that have been urged here have been accepted in some of the other colonies. It may be said that, if New South Wales were to withdraw, the project would probably collapse, and the discussion of a federation bill would be stifled. In such circumstances the colony ought certainly to persevere in spite of defections, the hope being that a measure may be framed of which those who now hold back will be able to approve. But, further, the idea of federation is one of the oldest traditions of Sydney. No sooner did the younger provinces branch off from the mother colony than the hope was entertained that they might be again united under a more suitable form of government. The time has certainly now come when it may be considered whether a reunion is possible, and on what terms it may be made most advantageously. The position, again, that New South Wales holds is an argument for discussing any scheme of federation that may be brought forward. To a very large extent it holds the key of the situation. Its commerce and industries and population give to it such an importance that no system of federation could be adopted without its consent. It follows, therefore, as the union of the Australian provinces is a most desirable object, that the discussion should not be blocked by this colony.

There are two points, however, that ought to be borne in mind when the elections for the Federal Convention take place. The first is that no mere party tactics can be tolerated on the part of the candidates. The seriousness of the situation and the desirability, if not the necessity, of trying to form a constitution to which all of the Australian colonies can subscribe preclude the idea of returning candidates merely on party issues or because they advocate certain fads. The work in hand is one that cannot be achieved by candidates who boast only of their local knowledge or of their connection with certain associations. It is not a question of discussing details, but of drafting a constitution, and the man who becomes a candidate because he desires to put some pettifogging point into the draft bill of Australian unity deserves to be instantly rejected. It is the duty of the electors to choose those who have proved that they understand the question of federation, believing that under any form of government local matters will not be neglected. The second point to which we may call attention is the fact that the Federation Convention can only draft a bill, and that no law can be passed without the consent of the people of the country. There seems to be some doubt as to what the colony is committed to by the election and by the Convention itself. The second part of the Federation Enabling Act is definite on this point, and particularly section 32, which provides that as soon as practicable after the Convention the constitution then agreed upon shall be referred to the electors of New South Wales as one electoral district for acceptance or rejection. If there is any point in the scheme drawn up by the Federal Convention to which objection can be fairly taken, there will be ample opportunity of discussing it. Every local grievance and every township complaint can be expressed when the federal measure comes from the Convention to the people. The delegates have no executive power; but this colony only does its duty to Australia in contributing to the discussion of a political constitution. On the wisdom and the tact and the knowledge of the representatives will depend the further and all-important question whether a federal scheme can be formulated which the different colonies will be constrained to accept.

THE FEDERAL CONVENTION.—There is now reason to fear that Western Australia as well as Queensland will not be represented at the Federal Convention, which in this event will consist solely of representatives elected directly by the people of New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, and Tasmania. The difficulty in regard to Western Australia arises from the fact that a general election will be in progress in the western colony in April and May, and the dates proposed by the New South Wales Government for the Convention will therefore not be convenient for Western Australia. Yesterday Mr. Reid received the following telegram from Sir John Forrest, Premier of Western Australia:—"23rd December, 1896. Re Federal Convention, the dates named are most inconvenient, as a general election will be going on here in April and May, and it would be impossible for Ministers and members of Parliament to take any part as members of the Convention if the dates are adhered to. Advise that meeting take place towards end of year. Could we not confer on subject at Hobart?" To this telegram Mr. Reid has replied as follows:—"Will confer with the other Governments. Willing to modify dates to make Convention earlier. You might do the same to make your elections later. But most strongly of opinion that Convention must be held before the end of the year. As suggested by you, in my opinion would be almost equivalent to shelving the movement." Replies have now been received from South Australia and Tasmania concurring in the dates suggested by the New South Wales Government. No official answer has yet come from Victoria, but it is believed that that colony is not unfavourable to the proposed dates.

MR. POWELL AND THE PROPOSED PENSION.—It was announced by the Premier on Friday last that the *Government* had decided to recommend Parliament to grant Mr. Powell, the late Collector of Customs, a pension of £300 a year over and above the £200 a year to which he is entitled from the Superannuation Fund. It is understood that Mr. Powell has written to the Government declining the offer to recommend Parliament to increase his pension, and in place of the £200 a year from the Superannuation Fund he has applied for the gratuity to which he is entitled under the Act.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE.—A meeting of the Public Works Committee was held yesterday morning for the purpose of further considering the proposed deep-water harbour at Port Kembla. Mr. T. Ewing, M.L.A., presided. Mr. H. Deane, Engineer-in-Chief, Railway Construction Branch, Department of Public Works, was further examined in regard to the proposal. Mr. Deane suggested two routes, one to connect the port of Wollongong with Kembla, and the other to go direct from the Wollongong railway station to Kembla. After a short sitting the committee adjourned till Tuesday, 12th January next.

"PROCEEDINGS" OF THE BATHURST CONVENTION.—We are informed by Mr. A. J. Webb, the hon. secretary of the People's Federal Convention at Bathurst, that the convention printing committee has finally revised and arranged all material for the issue of the "proceedings" of the People's Federal Convention. This will contain a list of members and officials, a report of the proceedings of the convention, an edition of the Draft Commonwealth Bill as amended by the convention, an appendix containing letters from high official sources, selected papers on federal subjects by experts, and speeches *in extenso* by specialists. The whole is now ready, and only awaiting the conclusion of arrangements for printing. A manifesto, as ordered by the convention, is now in preparation for issue through the public press; and the manual, for which instructions were given, has been placed in the hands of a barrister, whose draft will be submitted for sanction to the committee.

QUEENSLAND NEWSPAPER POSTAL RATES.—The Postal Department has asked us to remind persons corresponding with their friends in Queensland that from the 1st January next, under the new regulations of that colony, newspapers must be prepaid at the rate of ½d per 2oz., instead of ½d per 10oz. as heretofore, otherwise they will be liable to a charge of double the amount of deficient postage on delivery. Further, that bulk parcels of newspapers will not be transmissible to Queensland unless each newspaper contained in the parcel be prepaid at the above-mentioned rate, and no newspaper nor periodical publication will be allowed to pass through the Post Office of Queensland if it contains any advertisement contravening the statutes of that colony entitled the Indecent Advertisements Act of 1892 or the Suppression of Gambling Act of 1895.

THE NEW COMMANDER OF H.M.S. MILDURA.—We learned on inquiry yesterday that the appointment of Captain John G. Jones to succeed Captain Castle as commander of H.M.S. Mildura and officer in command of the Steam Reserve and Naval Establishments at Sydney has arisen from the circumstance that the time for which Captain Castle received his present appointment is about to expire, and in accordance with the usage of the Admiralty it was necessary to appoint a successor. Captain Castle has won for himself a large amount of popularity in Sydney, and his removal from this port will be much regretted. Captain Castle will have completed three years' service by the time he has been relieved, and his official career is a notable one because it fell to his lot to organise the extensive naval establishments now in operation at Garden Island. By the time he reaches England he will have been away from home for five years. Captain Jones is expected to arrive about the middle of February. He is spoken of by those who know him as being a popular officer, and he will come with experience of a Royal naval depot which he gained while in charge of the naval establishment at the Island of Ascension.

SYDNEY TRADERS ON THE EASTERN QUESTION.—It is not often that Eastern difficulties have any direct influence on the commercial interests of the colonies. Such, however, was the case a few days back. A Sydney firm having negotiated for the purchase of a large line of dried fruits in Smyrna, cabled for the confirmation of the transaction. The cypher was used and the wire duly sent. On the receipt of the mystic missive at the other side, the Turkish officials being unable to interpret it declined to forward it to its destination and a vexatious delay resulted. It is stated that the presence of a British fleet off Smyrna has made the Turks especially cautious, and a vigilant cable censorship is practised in consequence.

PETERSHAM PARK.—Mr. L. C. Russell Jones, M.L.A., has received a letter from the Minister for Lands intimating that £50 has been granted towards the improvement of Petersham Park.

THE FIRE BRIGADES BOARD AND THE CANTERBURY COUNCIL.—At the last meeting of the Canterbury Council it was resolved to request the assistance of the member for the district (Mr. Varney Parkes, M.L.A.) in the settlement of the difficulty with the Fire Brigades Board. As already announced, the board has made a claim for a sum of £90, and has intimated that the council is liable to a fine of £400 for not having paid its dues. It is asserted locally that the council derives no benefit from the fire brigade service, and further, that it is not in a position to pay the amount claimed.

COMPLIMENTARY PRESENTATIONS.—At the conclusion of Monday evening's meeting of the Canterbury Council an adjournment was made to the Mayor's room, when the Mayor (Alderman Lorking), as president of the local social club, presented Alderman Dennis (treasurer of the club) and Mr. F. Davis (hon. sec.) with testimonials in recognition of their services to the institution. The Mayor spoke in high terms of the services rendered by the recipients.

PRESENTATION TO MISS NELLIE YOUNG.—Miss Nellie Young's pupils prepared a surprise for her on Wednesday afternoon last, at Jean and Company's, where they entertained her at tea, and presented her with a pearl and diamond bracelet, and an illuminated address, in token of their esteem, prior to her marriage. On Miss Young's arrival Miss Faning handed her a beautiful bouquet of deep red roses and maidenhair fern; and then Mrs. W. J. Edwards made the presentation on behalf of the pupils.

THE STOCKTON RELIEF FUND.—The executive officers of the Stockton Relief Fund continue to receive subscriptions and promises. Up till last night the receipts in cash amounted to £167 0s 10d, besides which £107 14s has been promised. These amounts are exclusive of the receipts from the recent operatic performance in aid of the fund, the accounts for which will probably be received at the next meeting of the executive committee.

PORTRAIT OF THE LATE MR. BUCKLAND.—A portrait of the late Thomas Buckland has been painted by Mr. Tom Roberts, at the request of the Board of Directors of the Bank of New South Wales, of which the deceased was president. Considering the difficult circumstances under which the artist laboured, he has achieved a gratifying success, for Mr. J. R. French, the general manager of the bank (in whose room the picture hangs) pronounces it an excellent likeness, and this opinion is shared by the colleagues of the deceased. Mr. Roberts worked with the aid of photographs of Mr. Buckland, and from a model dressed in his clothes, and was assisted by the suggestions of those who best knew the deceased. The portrait shows Mr. Buckland seated in a characteristic attitude with one hand closely grasping his stick, upon which he partly leans. The expression of the firmly-drawn mouth is somewhat softened by the light and colour in the eyes, the warm flesh tones are clear and convincing, and the light falls naturally upon the head, and upon the silvery-grey hair of the face, which is deftly painted.

A MAN KILLED ON THE TRAMLINE.—At a quarter past 9 last night a man, whose name is at present unknown, was killed on the tramline near Bent-street. A tram bound for Coogee was moving out of the yard, and when about 50 yards on the Circular Quay side of Bent-street the conductor felt a shock similar to that which would be produced by an obstruction on the line. The tram was immediately stopped, and the mangled remains of a man were found lying between two of the cars. The engine and one of the cars had evidently passed over the body. The locality is very dark, and no one witnessed the accident. The skull of the deceased was found to be smashed, both legs were broken, the right foot was amputated, and the right arm was also smashed. The body appeared to be that of a man about 28 years of age, 5ft. 7in. in height, medium build, small dark moustache, and was clad in a black striped tweed trousers, with a check brown tweed vest and coat. A watch which was found in one of the pockets of the vest contained a card upon which was written "A. J. S. Bollinger, jeweller, Clarinastreet, Park." The body was removed to the North City Morgue.

SHOOTING AFFRAY IN GEORGE-STREET.—About a week ago a man named Cook received a fractured skull as the result of an assault by a man in a house in Pyrmont. He was treated at the Sydney Hospital and recovered from his injuries. Last night he was proceeding along George-street, in a buggy, accompanied by a man named William Farrell. According to his own statement, Cook saw his former assailant standing at the corner of Liverpool and George streets. He stopped his vehicle and walked quickly towards him. As he approached the man drew a revolver and said, "If you come near me I will blow your brains out." At the same time he levelled his revolver at Cook's head and pulled the trigger. Cook inclined himself, and held his hand up with the object of catching the weapon. The bullet struck the third finger of his left hand and smashed the bone. Cook fell on the ground, and his assailant ran along Liverpool-street. The occurrence attracted a considerable crowd, who gave chase to the fugitive. A couple of soldiers who were amongst the pursuers closely pressed the man, and he turned into Pitt-street and traversed it as far as Johnston's hotel, into which he ran, still carrying the revolver in his hand. Constables Surridge and Mackay followed the man into the hotel and arrested him. He was taken to the Central Police Station, and charged with shooting Michael Cook, with intent to inflict grievous bodily harm upon him. The man replied that he did it in self-defence. In company with his companion Farrell, the injured man Cook went to the Sydney Hospital, where his hand was dressed. He stated that he was a butcher by occupation, and resided in Raglan-street, Waterloo. He added that he had only seen his assailant on the occasion that he was assaulted in Pyrmont, and did not know him personally.

SUICIDE OF A CARPENTER.—John Springall, 45, a carpenter, employed in a domestic capacity at the Custom House Hotel, Macquarie-place, was discovered suspended from a beam by a pair of reins in a stable at the rear of 39 Little Albion-street, Surry Hills, yesterday morning. Life was extinct. Deceased had been in the habit of sleeping in the stable. The City Coroner (Mr. J. C. Woore, J.P.) held an inquest on the body at the South Sydney Morgue, in the afternoon, and a verdict of suicide was returned.

THE "AEROPHILE'S" LATEST ADVENTURE.—A balloon, the Aerophile, sent off from the Vilette works in Paris in the small hours of Saturday morning, 14th November, was found on Monday at Yraide, near Dinant, in Belgium. It carried no passengers (says the *Daily News* Paris correspondent), but the self-registering instruments in the car showed that it had reached a height of 9¼ miles (exactly 15,000 metres) and encountered a temperature of 82 below zero fahrenheit. The Aerophile has a well-established reputation in the scientific world as the most advanced explorer of high regions of the present time. It has been sent off and recovered six times, after reaching in most cases a height of about 9 miles—an altitude beyond which balloons seem unable to get. At this height, of course, human beings cannot live, not only on account of the cold, but also because the air is too thin. The Aerophile, which is a moderate-sized balloon of 380 cubic metres, is equipped with a self-registering thermometer, barometer, and other scientific instruments. When found the silk covering was in tatters, but the instruments were safe. On the same night it was sent off other balloons, fitted up in the same way, left Berlin, Warsaw, and St. Petersburg.

THE CHANCE OF A RUBBER FAMINE.—A Birmingham authority declares that it is doubtful whether the enormous demand for indiarubber for the manufacture of pneumatic tyres will not bring about a temporary disappearance of that article of commerce altogether, or lead to a prohibitive increase in value. In 1879 the annual importation of rubber from Para, in Brazil, amounted only to 2000 tons, but the importation has now grown to more than 20,000 tons, exclusive of the consignments from West Africa, where the plant has been extensively cultivated. More scientific methods are now being adopted to prevent a waste of the sap and obtain the maximum output from the trees, and more trees are being planted, so that the future supply will be greatly augmented. The rubber industry in England employs thousands of workpeople, and is represented by millions of invested capital. Rubber-tyred wheels for all sorts of vehicles are rapidly being adopted, and it is even proposed to pave the streets with this material.

CARRIER PIGEONS IN THE NAVY.—The British Admiralty has decided to make an important innovation at Devonport. Encouraged by the recent successful experiments in the training of carrier pigeons as messengers, the Admiralty has determined to erect a large pigeon-house adjoining the signal station of the Naval Commander-in-Chief at Devonport. The loft will be capable of accommodating 200 birds. The training of carrier pigeons will be carried on from this loft, and the birds will become an auxiliary to the Naval Intelligence Department.

It is announced in the *Gazette* that Messrs. E. F. Pittman, A.R.S.M., Government Geologist and Chief Mining Surveyor; J. Taylor, B.Sc., F.C.S., A.R.S.M., Government Metallurgist; and J. C. H. Mingaye, F.C.S., analyst and assayer, have been appointed as examiners to conduct an examination of candidates for appointment as assayer under the Department of Mines, &c.

We receive from the publisher and originator, Mr. Thomas Beecham, of St. Helen's, Lancashire, England, two numbers of "Beecham's Music Portfolio." At the price, each of these is a remarkable number. It contains 29 pieces of music, and the choice ranges from such divine compositions as Beethoven's "Pastoral," Chopin's "Funeral March," Haydn's "Andante," Rubenstein's "Melody in F," Handel's largo or march from "Scipio," down through old popular melodies to the street songs of yesterday.

The following have been elected officers of the Waverley Volunteer Fire Brigade:—Captain, Mr. George Broadhurst; first lieutenant, Mr. A. Mountstephen; second lieutenant, Mr. G. Black; secretary, Mr. Richard Boon; treasurer, Mr. G. Morris; engine-keeper, Mr. E. Robinson; drivers, Messrs. G. Edwards and E. Hummerston; auditors, Messrs. G. Black and G. Edwards; trustees, Messrs. A. Lusty and E. Hummerston.

On Monday evening the meeting of the Christian Endeavour Society in connection with the Point Piper-road Congregational Church, Woollahra, was held as a "gift night," when articles of food and cash were provided by the members of the church and society. These were taken charge of by the sunshine committee for distribution amongst the poor families in the Woollahra district.

The city missionaries have been busy for days past in arranging the customary Christmas help. No less than 1400 orders have been distributed among poor families whose circumstances are well known to the missionaries. Great care has been exercised to prevent overlapping with other societies, only those being assisted whose necessities have been under the missionaries' notice for months past.

On Wednesday evening the members of St. George's Church, Glenmore-road, Paddington, held a special gift service, to which the parishioners brought gifts for distribution amongst the poor of the parish, which were distributed on the following evening in the school hall.

At the residence of Mr. J. J. Devlin, of Kogarah, on the 18th instant Mr. Joseph Miles, a retiring member of the Naval Brigade Band, was presented with a gold medal as a souvenir of his services to the band.

At the Infants' Home, Ashfield, yesterday, a Christmas tree was arranged for the children, and a concert for the entertainment of the adults took place in the evening.

At Pitt-street Congregational Mission Settlement dinners have been provided for 70 families, and good Christmas fare will thus be given to over 500 persons, as the provision was for families of eight.

We have received calendars for 1897 from the Sun Fire Office, Messrs. Orme, Keigwin, and Co., and the Lancashire Insurance Company.

Mr. W. E. Smith, of Bridge-street, sends us Walker's No. 3 Diary for 1897, which is convenient in size for the pocket and tastefully finished.

A girl 8 years old, named Annie Ward, was run over by a cab in Oxford-street last evening, and had one thigh broken. A carter named Michael Moylen, who resides in Engine-street, was driving his cart to the tip at Moore Park yesterday afternoon, when owing to a slipping of some earth his horse was thrown down and the cart overturned. Moylen received a fracture of one of his thighs through being thrown out.

A Chinaman named Tiy Kee, a gardener, lately residing in Lane Cove-road, North Sydney, was taken to Sydney Hospital yesterday afternoon, and died two hours after admission.

Last evening a fire broke out in a shop occupied by Mrs. D. Gee, in Oxford-street, Paddington, which destroyed several articles in the window. The fire is supposed to have originated through the head of a match falling off at the time that Miss Gee was lighting the gas.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES.

ST. ANDREW'S CATHEDRAL.

At the choral service held in St. Andrew's Cathedral last evening, the proceedings were conducted by the Primate (Dr. Saumarez Smith), and there was a large congregation present. In preparation for the services of to-day the interior of the Cathedral had been handsomely decorated with flowers. The shortened form of evening service was intoned, and it was interspersed with Christmas carols sung by the choir. These carols had been selected with commendatory taste and discrimination, as all of them were works of more than ordinary musical merit. Several were new to Sydney, but all were much appreciated by the congregation. Amongst the best rendered of the carols were "Lo, Within a Manger Lies," in which the treble solo was taken by Master Harris, "Far Away," and "A Wondrous Sight;" but the choir is deserving of special praise for its singing of the carol commencing "Child Divine," the tenor solo in which was taken by Mr. A. J. Searl. The Christmas hymns, "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing" and "Adeste Fideles," were sung by the choir and congregation. At the conclusion of the service the members of the choir were entertained at supper by several ladies connected with the Cathedral.

CHRIST CHURCH (ST. LAWRENCE).

As is usual at Christ Church the preparations for Christmastide were quiet, yet effective. The decorations consisted mainly of white flowers profusely displayed on altar, lectern, and font, and tastefully interspersed with leaves and ferns of vivid green. A further and pleasing contrast had been brought about by the judicious placing of a few bouquets, the dominant colour of which was a deep scarlet, on the wide window-sills. The general effect was exactly what had been aimed at. There was no garish display, yet the more severe features of the building were toned down and softened by the artistic arrangement of these few flowers. The service last evening was of the simplest character. The only departure from the ordinary form of evensong was the singing of several Christmas carols by the choir, under the direction of the Rev. A. Bode, the organist of the church, and a procession at the close. The Revs. G. Trower and F. J. Albery took part in the service.

ST. JAMES' CHURCH.

Choral evensong was held at St. James' Church, King-street, last evening, when the service, which was preparatory to the celebration of Holy Communion to-day, was conducted by the vicar, the Rev. W. I. Carr-Smith. Mr. Hector Maclean presided at the organ.

PURE TEAS, COFFEES, COCOAS. Griffiths Bros., opposite Town Hall, Sydney.—[ADVT.]

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SPECIAL CABLES.

FROM THE *HERALD'S* LONDON CORRESPONDENTS.

REVOLT IN THE PHILIPPINES.

SPANISH REVERSES.

LONDON, Dec. 23.

Reports from Manila state that the rebels in the Philippine Islands have been victorious at Cavete and Noveta.

The Spaniards suffered heavy losses and retreated.

THE UNITED STATES AND SPAIN.

THE CUBAN QUESTION.

LONDON, Dec. 23.

Mr. Richard Olney, the American Secretary of State, declares that Spain still has the power to avert a rupture with the United States without losing Cuba, if she will allow the United States to settle the matter.

FLOODS IN GREECE.

MANY PEOPLE DROWNED.

LONDON, Dec. 24.

Terrible floods have taken place in Northern Greece. Many of the inhabitants have been drowned.

IRELAND AND IMPERIAL TAXATION.

LONDON, Dec. 23.

Colonel E. J. Saunderson, M.P. (Conservative) for North Armagh, has now joined in the demand for the reduction of Imperial taxation in Ireland.

Mr. John Dillon (Anti-Parnellite), M.P. for East Roscommon, and Mr. T. M. Healey (Anti-Parnellite), M.P. for North Louth, have met to concert a scheme with Dr. Walsh, the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Dublin, for dealing with the question.

THE VICTORIAN AGENT-GENERAL.

LONDON, Dec. 24.

Mr. Duncan Gillies, Agent-General for Victoria, is to be banqueted by St. George's Club on the 5th January. Lord Loch, formerly Governor of Victoria, will preside.

EARL RUSSELL'S RIVERSIDE RESIDENCE.

DESTROYED BY FIRE.

LONDON, Dec. 23.

Amberley Cottage, the Thames riverside residence of Earl Russell, at Maidenhead, has been destroyed by fire. The fire is believed to have been the work of an incendiary.

THE FRENCH ARMY.

AN ADDITIONAL INFANTRY BATTALION.

LONDON, Dec. 24.

General Billot, the French Minister for War, has brought forward a proposal in the Chamber of Deputies for the formation of an additional battalion of infantry, bringing up the number of divisional regiments of the line to 145.

FRENCH AND GERMAN ARTILLERY.

LONDON, Dec. 24.

The decision of the French military authorities to introduce the Canet gun in the army will probably have the effect of compelling Germany to improve her artillery at a cost of 200,000,000 marks.

THE PLAGUE IN INDIA.

THE OUTBREAK EXTENDING.

LONDON, Dec. 24.

Latest telegraphic advices from Bombay state that the bubonic plague is increasing in that city.

The plague has also broken out at Kurrachee, in the Scinde.

BANK FAILURES IN AMERICA.

LONDON, Dec. 24.

The Bank of Minnesota, United States, has suspended payment.

It is believed in Chicago that the banks in the Western States of the Union have large amounts locked up, the future being regarded as uncertain.

THE ELECTORAL LAWS IN CANADA.

LONDON, Dec. 24.

A telegram from Ottawa states that 27 returning officers have been arrested on a charge of conspiring to defeat the popular will at the general elections of the Canadian Dominion in June last.

HARES AND RABBITS.

LONDON, Dec. 24.

The recent heavy arrivals of New Zealand hares have spoiled the market. Victorian and New Zealand hares are slow of sale at 2s 9d, while New South Wales hares fetch 2s 6d.

The market for rabbits is flat, the ruling quotation being 9d each.

THE SCULLING CHAMPIONSHIP.

GAUDAUR CHALLENGES THE WORLD.

LONDON, Dec. 24.

Jacob Gaudaur has challenged the world to row for the sculling championship at Toronto, Canada, in June next.

He has also issued a challenge to row either C. R. Harding, or J. A. Barry, the Wandsworth sculler, in England, in August.

Working Men.—Dixson's Conqueror is your Tobacco—genuine, honest, pure. Try Dixson's New Conqueror.—[Advt.]

EUROPEAN SITUATION.

FRANCE AND RUSSIA.

REFORMS IN TURKEY.

COERCION AGREED UPON BY THE POWERS.

LONDON, Dec. 23.

The Paris *Figaro*, which yesterday published a stinging attack upon M. Nelidoff, the Russian Ambassador, at Constantinople, to-day declares that M. Nelidoff's sole object is to maintain Russia's influence in Turkey.

The Embassies, including the Russian, in Constantinople, are considering fresh proposals with regard to reforms in Turkey, and have agreed that coercion is expedient to enforce their demands.

THE ARMENIANS AND THE SULTAN.

LONDON, Dec. 24.

The Armenian Patriarch of Constantinople, Mgr. Ormanian, has refused to admit that the Armenians were solely responsible for the late troubles. He has expressed his satisfaction with the promised reforms in Turkey, and states that the Armenians do not desire foreign assistance.

The Patriarch has declined to guarantee the entire cessation of the Armenian agitation in Constantinople, and declared that he preferred to resign rather than be held responsible for the good behaviour of the Armenians who have been amnestied. He tendered his resignation to the Sultan, but it was not accepted.

RELIEF FOR THE ARMENIANS.

LONDON, Dec. 24.

Lord Salisbury has refused to grant a request that Parliament should be asked to vote a sum for the relief of the Armenians, as he considers that public charity is sufficient for the purpose of providing relief.

According to the Rome correspondent of the *Daily News* the Powers of the Triple Alliance and England have left to France and Russia the task of devising the next measure to be taken for the solution of the Turkish question, and should the plan determined upon by them promise to be effective will give it their cordial support. It is reported from Odessa that an Admiralty order, issued through the Commander-in-Chief of the Black Sea Squadron, has just been received in every Euxine port, directing all naval reserve officers, including boatswains and pilots, to hold themselves in instant readiness to assemble at Sebastopol if called upon at any time during the present month.

FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.

LONDON, Dec. 24.

The Rev. Hugh MacMillan, of Greenock, has been elected Moderator of the Free Church of Scotland.

THE NORTHERN TERRITORY.

PASTORAL AND MINING PROPERTIES.

LONDON, Dec. 24.

A powerful syndicate has purchased the pastoral and mining rights in the Northern Territory acquired from the South Australian Government, and placed on the market by Mr. J. C. Neild, M.L.A., of New South Wales.

A company is to be floated to work the properties so acquired.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

PERTH, Thursday.

John Ryan, bootmaker, has been found lying dead outside his tent, West Perth, with his throat cut.

At a meeting of the Executive Council yesterday Mr. John Davies was appointed general manager of the Western Australian Railways.

Mr. Wittenoom, Minister for Mines, has been appointed the fifth delegate from Western Australia to the Federal Council.

Emile Lebbin, who is charged with abduction, and Isabel Lang, who is charged with larceny, were remanded to Victoria, by the Albany Bench. They were handed over to the custody of Detective Ballard of the Victorian force.

The police state that the city is invaded by a large crowd of criminals from the eastern colonies, who it is believed are well provided with notes and coins of a spurious nature.

ESPERANCE, Thursday.

Tattersall's Club was opened last night by the Mayor (Mr. W. R. Burton) in the presence of a large company.

Several robberies from the person are reported; in each instance over £40 was stolen.

Mr. W. R. Burton (the new Mayor) was sworn in last night. A letter was read from Mr. T. Edwards (ex-Mayor) notifying that an appeal would be made to the Supreme Court to compel Mr. Burton to show cause why he should not be ousted from the position, on the grounds that he is not possessed of necessary property qualification, and that he voted on behalf of Harrold Brothers, who were residents of Adelaide at the time of election.

ARRIVAL OF THE R.M.S. OCEANA AT ALBANY.

ALBANY, Thursday.

The R.M.S. Oceana, E. Stewart commander, arrived from Colombo at 5.30 a.m. The following are the saloon passengers:—

For ALBANY: Messrs. Peart and Mellors.

For ADELAIDE: Mr. and Mrs. Bownin, Mrs. Price and child, Dr. Morrison.

For MELBOURNE: Mr. Robson, Mr. and Mrs. Rogers, Mr. Hamilton, Mr. and Mrs. Sturgess, Messrs. Vosdavis, Pierre, Hargrove, Petterson, Williams, Mr. and Mrs. Wright, Misses Edeson and Mayne, Mesdames Miller, Tingby, and Clother.

For SYDNEY: Messrs. Mackenzie (2), Mr. and Mrs. Wright and 2 children, Messrs. Williamson, King, Farlon, Skipwith, Wakefield, Moore, Dillon, Mr. and Mrs. M'Bean, Narks, Broad, Ainsick, Bowley, Cattley, Corrie, Mr. and Mrs. Drewry, Massey, Mesdames Mackenzie, Campbell, Merrifield, Beauchamp and daughter, Misses Mackenzie and Whitlock, Captain and Mrs. Scott, Major Candy, Captain Dickson, the Hon. Mrs. Candy, the Rev. Mr. Caffrey.

For NEW ZEALAND: Mr. and Mrs. Logan, Messrs. Dennison, Jones, and Waugh.

For HOBART: Mr. Arkher.

For QUEENSLAND: Mr. Hartley, Mr. and Mrs. Brown, Mr. and Mrs. MacFie and child, Mr. Irwin, and Miss Hartley.

There are 49 for all parts in the other classes. The Oceana sailed for Adelaide at 2 p.m.

RIFLE SHOOTING.

The Naval Brigade Rifle Club held their final shooting for the quarter on Saturday, the 19th December. The following are the scores and names of the prize-winners:—

First Class, handicaps included.—A. B. M'Andrew, 56, 60—total, 116 points; A.B. Wilson, 56, 56—112; A.B. Beddall, 57, 55—112; A.B. Jackson, 60, 51—111; A.B. Moore, 53, 54—107.

Second Class.—A.B. Griffin, 53, 48—total, 101; A.B. Elliott, 50, 48—98; A.B. Pigott, 50, 45—95; A.B. Mathieson, 44, 50—94; A.B. Cavander, 46, 48, 94; A.B. Simpson, 41, 50—91; A.B. Luscombe, 45, 44—89; A.B. Buckley, 48, 37—85.

A.B. Griffin is the winner of the shooting-box presented to the second-class to compete for by A.B. Luscombe with a score of 202 points, best four of six shootings to count.

Working Men.—Dixson's Conqueror is your Tobacco—genuine, honest, pure. Try Dixson's New Conqueror.—[Advt.]

VICTORIA.

THE ARCHDEACONRY OF BEECHWORTH.

MELBOURNE, Thursday.

For financial reasons the Bishop of Melbourne has decided to make no appointment at present to the vacant archdeaconry of Beechworth. He has arranged to have this work carried on by the Archdeacons of Melbourne and Sandhurst, who will receive their travelling expenses only.

THE TUTHILL-LEADER INQUIRY.

REPORT OF THE BOARD.

MELBOURNE, Thursday.

The Public Service Board handed to-day to the Solicitor-General the report of the special board appointed to inquire into the charges made by Mr. S. W. Tuthill, of Ballarat, solicitor, against Mr. William Leader, P.M., of Ballarat. The Public Service Board has written a minute on the report, stating that it is of opinion that the report shows that the charges are not proved. The report sets out the various charges seriatim and gives the board's finding in the case. In some instances it finds that no evidence has been adduced to support the charges, that other charges were frivolous and unfounded, that in one case Mr. Leader committed an error of judgment, and that in another there was some misunderstanding. On the more general charges, "that Mr. Leader as a magistrate had pronounced prejudices against Mr. Tuthill, that he was not impartial as a magistrate, that he was rude and offensive to practitioners, more especially to Mr. Tuthill," the board finds that they are not proved. And as to the charges, "that Mr. Leader did not always adhere to the truth on the bench, and that he favoured certain practitioners to the prejudice of other practitioners," the board finds that these are unfounded. The board further states, "We find that Mr. Leader is not incapable of discharging the duties of his office, and that he had not been guilty of misconduct." In conclusion, the board states that the evidence shows that from a period shortly after Mr. Leader's commencing his duties at Ballarat unfriendly relations between him and Mr. Tuthill in the transaction of their business in court became notorious, that the origin of these feelings is not clear, but that whatever the origin was the consequence was an impropriety of language and temper in court on the part of the practitioner, and nervous petulance and apprehension on the part of the magistrate; that during two years outbursts frequently occurred in the court presided over by Mr. Leader, which were not consonant with the decorous administration of justice, and the board thinks they would have been promptly and decisively checked by the magistrate if firmness and discretion had been shown. Mr. Leader was suspended during the inquiry in accordance with the Public Service Act, but the suspension now ceases.

TERRIBLE BURNING FATALITY.

MELBOURNE, Thursday.

A terrible burning fatality has occurred at the Grampians, about 25 miles from Stawell. An elderly woman named O'Rourke, living in the vicinity of Rose's Gap, and her daughter, aged about 20, were engaged washing at the creek when bush fires broke out about a mile away. Assisted by a strong wind the fire travelled down the creek, which is fringed by fern and heavy brushwood, and before Mrs. O'Rourke and her daughter could escape Miss O'Rourke's clothing caught fire. In the attempt to extinguish it the mother's clothing caught, and she was severely burned about the lower portion of the body. Her husband, who was near at hand, in the endeavour to save his wife, was severely burnt about the arms and body. Assistance was soon at hand. Mrs. O'Rourke and her husband were conveyed to the Stawell hospital. On arrival Mrs. O'Rourke was alive, but before she could be taken from the vehicle life was extinct. The husband is in a precarious state.

Later.

A telegram from Stawell states that there is very little hope of the recovery of O'Rourke, who was severely burned yesterday by bush fires. Miss O'Rourke, as well as her mother, succumbed to her injuries, which were of an agonising nature.

THE FEDERAL COUNCIL.

MELBOURNE, Thursday.

At the sitting of the Executive Council to-day Sir John M'Intyre and Sir Henry Wrixon were sworn in as members of the Federal Council.

THE NEW SOUTH WALES CRICKET TEAM.

MELBOURNE, Thursday.

The members of the New South Wales cricket team arrived this morning from Adelaide, and took up their quarters at Scott's Hotel. They were at work at the nets this afternoon on the Melbourne Cricket Ground, and put in some excellent practice.

MELBOURNE, Thursday.

A difficulty has arisen between the proprietors of the *Evening Herald* and the men employed on the linotype machines, in consequence of which the men have gone out on strike.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

VISIT OF THE GOVERNOR TO TASMANIA.

ADELAIDE, Thursday.

The Governor intends proceeding to Tasmania on the 1st January. As the Chief Justice will also be absent Mr. Justice Boucaut will act as Deputy Governor.

CHRISTMAS IN ADELAIDE.

ADELAIDE, Thursday.

Christmastide in Adelaide has brought as usual a large increase of business, and the leading establishments of the city have had as much as they could do to meet orders. The main streets to-day were crowded with customers. The shopkeepers state that their returns are even better than last year. Large quantities of gold are in circulation. This fact is attributed mainly to the numerous arrivals from Western Australia within the past week. In spite of the distress amongst the farmers in certain parts a large number of country people are in town spending money freely.

JONES THE CRICKETER.

ADELAIDE, Thursday.

Arrangements have been made to retain E. Jones, the fast bowler, in the colony.

THE INTERCOLONIAL CRICKET TEAM.

ADELAIDE, Thursday.

The selection committee has reconsidered the intercolonial team and has decided to substitute M'Kenzie for A. H. Jarvis.

THE CORONER AND THE HOSPITAL STAFF.

ADELAIDE, Thursday.

At an inquest to-day on the body of a man named John Leedham, who died in the hospital on Tuesday from injuries received through a cask of tar falling on him, it was shown in the evidence that the remains were to have been buried yesterday, but that the new medical superintendent of the hospital omitted to promptly inform the coroner of the fatality. Accordingly the funeral had to be postponed till to-day. The coroner has impressed upon the new medical staff the necessity for defining their duties and keeping him promptly informed of deaths from accidents.

TENDERS ACCEPTED.

The undermentioned tenders in connection with Public schools have been accepted by the Government, viz.:—Annandale, tar-paving, &c., J. Swan, £91 9s 6d; Brocklehurst, erection of bathroom, &c., A. M. Soane, £28 18s 6d; Burwood, repairs to tar-paving, D. Zoeller, £10 10s; Berrigan, erection of new school building, and conversion of present building into a residence, Lapthorne Brothers, £1030; Collie, verandah and painting, P. Soane, £51 9s; Croydon, repairs, Musgrave and Riley, £44 13s; Darlington, painting and repairs, T. Goddard, £311 12s; Demondrille, emptying of closets, W. Metcalf, £12 12s; Far Meadow, new building and teacher's residence, Muller Brothers, £317; Port-street, improvements, J. A. Ong, £639; Gosford, emptying and repairing of closets, W. Glover, £10; Illabo, erection of residence, Falconer Brothers, £495; Jerrawa, erection of kitchen, A. Rodrom, £49 18s 6d; Mungindi, improvements, B. B. Kinnear, £54 14s; Mundooran, verandah, J. P. Manusu, £12 5s; Newtown, alterations to drainage, &c., L. Thomas, £354; Tamworth, new closets and repairs, H. H. Gillies, £211; Tootal, additions, C. Bardy and Co., £63 10s; West Kempsey, repairs, &c., J. Kean, £99 19s 10d; Wyagdon, repairs, &c., W. Ashworth, £29

PROROGATION OF THE VICTORIAN PARLIAMENT.

THE GOVERNOR'S SPEECH.

MELBOURNE, Thursday.

Both Houses of Parliament sat late last night to clear the business paper. In the Legislative Council the Beet Sugar Works Amendment Bill was passed through all its stages. The Assembly's amendments in the Insolvency Law Amending Bill were dealt with, and the majority of them were rejected. The Mines Bill was read the second time. It was resolved to insist on the amendments in the Insolvency Law Amending Bill, but the amendments in the Credit Foncier Bill were abandoned under protest. The Appropriation Bill was passed through all its stages, and, after the usual complimentary speeches, the Council adjourned.

In the Legislative Assembly it was decided to accept all the Council's amendments in the Insolvency Law Amending Bill except that relating to the expenses of administration. The Council's amendment in the Factories Bill, exempting dairies and agricultural establishments, was accepted. The Postal Department estimates were further considered in committee, and after a long discussion they were agreed to. The bill to punish fraudulent estate and commission agents and also one requiring new shires to have a revenue of £1500 a year before being constituted were passed through all their stages. This concluded the business, and the House rose.

The prorogation of Parliament by Lord Brassey took place at 5 o'clock this afternoon. Owing to the inconvenient hour the attendance in the Council Chamber was small. The Council unanimously and without debate declined to recede from the position it had assumed in striking out the 120th clause from the Insolvency Bill. The measure was consequently lost.

The Governor was escorted from Government House by a detachment of the Rupertswood artillery, and was received by a guard of honour composed of the Permanent Naval and Military Forces. As soon as the Governor entered the chamber the usher was despatched to request the attendance of the members of the Assembly, and they shortly afterwards appeared, headed by the Speaker. The Governor then assented to the Appropriation and other bills, and read the speech, which expresses the pleasure of the Governor at being able to release members after a long and arduous session. It states that the Parliaments of Tasmania and Australia, with the exception of Queensland, having passed enabling bills for the election of members of the convention to frame a federal constitution, the election will be held in the various colonies on some day in March. Lord Brassey trusts that the result of the deliberations of the convention will be a constitution which will ultimately find acceptance from the people to whom it is to be submitted, and that the object that all have in view will be achieved. The Houses were congratulated on the passing of the Factories and Shops Bill, and the hope was expressed that the measure would ameliorate the condition of the workers, and appreciably mitigate the evils of sweating. It stated that the interests of agriculturists have received sympathetic consideration, and that the bill enabling them to receive advances at a low rate of interest will do much to assist the class of cultivators which the policy of the country settled on the land. The Companies Bill, whilst guarding against negligence or fraud on the part of promoters, directors, managers, or auditors, and whilst offering greater security to the public than hitherto, will, it is believed, encourage and facilitate legitimate commercial enterprise. The speech expresses gratification that the steady decline in the revenue which had taken place for several years past had been checked, and says that an improvement may be expected in the future. Regret is expressed at the non-passing of the Constitution Reform and Insolvency bills. The exigencies of public business prevented the Mining Amendment and Consolidation Bill from passing, but next session advantage would be taken of the new standing Order in Council to reinstate the measure at the stage which it had reached. A promise was given that the complicated questions involved in the charities regulations shall be considered during the recess, with a view to submitting a measure next session. The speech reviews the various bills passed, and declares that Parliament stands prorogued to the 4th February.

THE MOUNTAIN MURDERS.

THE SWANHILDA SPOKEN.

AUCKLAND, Thursday.

Captain M'Beth, of the Union steamer Taupo, writing from Raratonga under date 15th December, says:—"On the afternoon of the 9th December I signalled the four-masted ship Swanhilda 16 miles south of L'Esperance Rock, Kermadec Islands. I sent a boat on board with a file of papers containing the latest reports of the Glenbrook mystery, and also warned the captain that the authorities suspected that the murderer had shipped in his vessel." The captain reported having encountered a succession of head winds since leaving Newcastle, and that all were well on board.

The fact that the Swanhilda under the circumstances, bound for San Francisco from Newcastle, should have been spoken seems strange. There are at present no fewer than 35 sailing vessels making their voyages from Newcastle to the port that this particular vessel is bound to, and just why the Swanhilda has been spoken is remarkable. The Taupo is one of the Union Company's steamers, trading to the South Sea Islands, and was presumably on her way to these islands when she fell in with the Swanhilda. The incident must have been an exciting one for the people on the steamer, who knew that the suspected man was on board the ship they had fallen in company with. No doubt the information was given to the master of the ship that he was supposed to have a notorious member in his crew, and shipmaster like, he would already through his chief officer have pretty well located the suspected seaman. Not once in a thousand so-called passings at sea does a steamer stop and a ship back her yards to communicate while passing. One can imagine what would take place on board the Swanhilda after the papers were read, indeed before they were read, and, always assuming that the mountain murderer was on board, how the captain and his chief officer would consult, and the man be arrested as a sequence.

LOSS OF THE BARQUE CARRICK.

ARRIVAL OF THE CREW.

A wire received last night from Twofold Bay states that two boats containing the crew of the barque Carrick had arrived there. They reported that the vessel left Newcastle on the 9th instant for Valparaiso laden with coal, and when to the south-west of Bass' Strait, taking the southerly course round New Zealand, she sprang a leak. All hands were at the pumps day and night to keep her afloat, and the ship's course was laid for New Zealand. For six days and nights the men worked, but the water in the hold steadily rose. Finding it impossible longer to navigate the barque she was abandoned when the decks were awash. Two boats were launched, and the crew witnessed the last of the Carrick. Under sail for some port, and after not a few vicissitudes, the men arrived at Eden.

The barque Carrick was an iron vessel of 898 tons, built in 1866, and left Newcastle with a full cargo of coal for Valparaiso.

PASTORAL INTELLIGENCE.

NARRANDERA, Thursday.

The latest stock passings by road are:—1600 wethers, from Til Til station; 5100 wethers, from Culpatana station to Gibbs Brothers, Carrabost, via Germanton; 1200 ewes, from Gilenbah station, Narrandera, to Howlong; 944 store bullocks, from F. W. Armytage, Thargomindah (Queensland) to Wodonga (Victoria), for sale.

NARRABRI, Thursday.

The latest stock passing are:—368 sheep, from Springville to Sydney, Mr. John V. Whiteman owner; 40 Lincoln rams, from Roselea to Milchengowrie, Messrs. Brooke Brothers owners; 2500 mixed sheep, from Burren to Yarroford, Mr. M. Mulcahy owner.

LATE SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.—December 25.

Oaklands (s.), 566 tons, Captain B. Alley, from Richmond River. Passengers—Mesdames Wolley and family, Forrest and family, Goulding and family, French, and Hatch, Miss Way, Messrs. Carter, Thom, Wiston, Watson, York, Morton, Dawes, Bigley, Pearson, Robertson, Thurnle, and Nicholas, Masters Fenwick, Dale, Nicholas, and French, and 14 in the steerage. W. T. Yeager, agent.

THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTMAS.

BY NOEL.

Some people find, or they affect to find, that an Australian Christmas has not the accustomed savour of the old-country festal season, but perhaps that is because they have grown older than they were and have lost the eager zest of appetite. People do become duller and less apprehensive of emotion as they grow older, unfortunately, and they sometimes charge against the account of facts and things what is more often wanting in themselves. Paterfamilias, who actually yawns at a pantomime and sleeps through the harlequinade, is sure the wit of the jaded librettist is duller than ever, and that the fairies neither dance so lightly nor look so beautiful as of yore; but the boy who shouts with laughter beside him at the antics of the clown will probably live to say the same about the pantomimes of the twentieth century in his turn. The Mr. Scrooges of the world will tell you that all this talk about Christmas and its festive associations is only fictitious make-believe, and that the only really interesting part of those gorgeous Christmas numbers of the illustrated papers is the page with the advertisement of somebody's patent digestive pill at the end. Of course Dickens gave Scrooge his quietus like the demon in the pantomime long ago, but he still makes his gibbering reappearance from time to time. Even those who really have pleasant associations with the season, and who try to keep up the old illusion, will tell you in their more reflective moments that it is impossible to have anything like a real Christmas without snow, and that such a thing as a midsummer Noël is a preposterous absurdity. But all this, when you come to analyse it, only amounts to one fact after all. It simply means that the Australian Christmas has to develop characteristics and associations of its own, independently of those concomitants of climate and traditional observance which make Christmas the social festival it is in the lands these regretful reminiscence-mongers came from.

There are so many Christmases, indeed, that one hardly knows at once what particular kind of Australian Christmas its critics refer to when they weigh it in the balance of their recollections and find it wanting. There is the Christmas of the town, and the Christmas of the country, that of the Churches and that of the holiday-makers, of the family and of the schools, of the people and of the individual; and there is the Christmas that is *par excellence*, and above all other things the festival of the children. Taking them all together and in the bunch, they surely go to make up all that is wanting to a great popular festival. Taken separately, who will be prepared to say that Australians will not develop in time, if they have not already done so, a Christmas sentiment of their own, which will enter as much into their individual and social life as the heartiest English or other Christmas did into the lives of those who, in different countries and in many tongues, celebrated the time-honoured festival for centuries before Australia was so much as dreamt of?

It is because Christmas has always been regarded as pre-eminently a home festival, a day sacred to the associations of the domestic hearth, that we in Australia have come to regard it less as a holiday of our own than as of those who carried the tradition of its observance to these shores. The Australian Christmas was cradled in adventure. Fifty years ago, when the young manhood of the British Isles, as well as of other countries, poured into this continent by every port in search of golden fortune, they brought with them a sentiment which bade them look back from the mining-camps of the Turon and Ballarat, where they lay resting in the shade from the December sun, to country lanes and churches in a white landscape, and to domestic circles with vacant places. The heat-haze that made the country round them shimmer as though reflected in a mirage was a magic curtain more marvellous than any that ever closed in upon the glittering miracle of a transformation scene, as it unfolded before the mental eyes of these pioneers of ours home-scenes and pictures of the places from which they had wandered so far afield.

And then the modern Christmas story took up the tale. It came to be recognised that this queer product of literature was not as it should be unless certain conventional lines of fact and fancy were adhered to with the strictest fidelity. There must be a brown-haired maid, of course, in a peaceful English home. And it was rigorously exacted of the storyteller that there must be a bright-eyed youth with the fire of gallant adventure in his blood, and love for the brown-haired maid in his heart, but with no money to speak of in his unsophisticated pockets. And of course there was an uncle or father or other shadowy detrimental of the sort, with venom in the place of blood in his veins, sordid and money-worshipping, and with a powerful command of pyrotechnic language perennially at the service of the bright-eyed youth. And of course everyone knows what that means—how there was a rustic stile, a woodland shade, a parting youth, a weeping maid, and all the rest of it. Then you lost sight of the home-scenes for a long while, which might have meant years, and in their place you saw seas in wild commotion, or tropical fairy lands, or Californian scenes, or Australian goldfields or sheep plains, or island paradises. And always in the centre of the stage was that adventurous youth, faultlessly if not picturesquely attired to suit the surroundings, with that wonderful superiority to circumstances that enables the stage hero to emerge from the most perilous sojourn among the most savage of primitive barbarians with a well-defined fold in his well-fitting khakee pants and his hair parted accurately in the middle. You all know what he is doing there. He is seeking the Maharajah's famous pearl, or the miraculous ruby, or the priceless chrysopras, if haply he has not already one or other of those precious jewels deftly concealed in his boot. Or perhaps he is simply pearling off Thursday Island, or black-birding in the Pacific, or mining in California, or on Old Bendigo, or masquerading as an incapable but always interesting jackaroo on an Australian sheeprun. But whatever he is, or wherever he may be, one is always sure that the good genius of the Christmas story will befriend him. Whether he steal the miraculous ruby, or float a Western Australian gold-mine the result is always the same, for in the last chapter the bright-eyed youth returns to wed the brown-haired maid and become an intolerable bore to his domestic circle by prosing remorselessly of his adventures ever after. But it is the manner of his return that gives the story its Christmas flavour. For, of course, he always returns at Christmas when the snow is white on the ground, when the bells are ringing and the house is bedecked with holly and mistletoe. The detrimental aforesaid, having satisfied himself of the returned wanderer's solvency, tactfully says nothing of the circumstances under which they parted, and this is the element of peaceful reunion in the Christmas story. What would happen if the young man returned penniless is never so much as hinted at by any storyteller who know his business. Besant tried the experiment of bringing back a wanderer without money once, but the book that embalms the blunder is happily forgotten now. Yet people begin to complain that there is not much human nature or fidelity to the facts of life in the old-fashioned Christmas story.

Look at it as we will, that bizarre picture represents to many of us what the Christmas of the Christmas stories has come to mean. But is there any real reason why we should not create a Christmas of our own? We have all the conditions to favour an original conception of the festival. Instead of snows and winter we have midsummer, and an Australian midsummer at that. Instead of the holly and mistletoe, those exiguous wintry products, we have all the wealth of semi-tropical growths. The tender leaves of the eucalyptus turn to madder and crimson on the treetops, setting the forest ablaze. The white epacrides sparkle, and the scarlet boronias flash through the green foliage like fire-flies, and on the hillsides the vivid waratah lights the landscape like a flashlight of flame. The cool stream nestles among the hills, the white road shimmers in the heat, the long deep verandahs conceal pleasant shades that make the summer sun seem welcome by their contrast. And have we not enough of family life and domestic tradition to make the season seasonable in the admirable old fashion, and to interweave the kindly thought and unselfish affection of husband and wife, of parent and children, of lover and maid, of all manner of domestic and family relationship into as close a woof as they ever twined themselves into in the older lands from which our people came? "The poetry of earth is ceasing never," sang Keats; and what he meant was probably no more than this, that the unspoken romance, the unwritten poetry, the shade and shine, the fact and fancy, the real and ideal of common life are now what they have always been, with their thousand-fold possibilities, for all the sentiment and idealism that bards have sung or poets rhymed.

But whether we make up our minds in this part of the world to celebrate an old-country Noël, or to acclimatise an Australian Christmas, there is one characteristic which may well be made common to both. It has the advantage of uniting the traditions of the old land to the practice of the new, and in so far we have nothing to learn. It has also the argument in its favour that those who make a religious festival of the natal day of the Founder of Christianity may carry out his precept and make the festival an occasion of joy to many by accepting it as an occasion for charitable sympathy with those who may not be as fortunate as others in their opportunities for celebrating the time-honoured festival. In these times it happens, even in a land so favoured as our own, that there are many who feel the pinch of poverty and privation. The children of the poor, particularly, are bereft of much that gives Christmas its hospitable and traditional meaning, and we have only to look about us to realise that there is enough want and consequent wretchedness around us to give occasion for the play of the benevolent and philanthropic instinct of those who are in a position to indulge it. Somehow it always seems that want makes a special appeal at this Christmas time, and in the fact we may readily recognise a survival of the traditional custom which has made Christmas everywhere a season for the relief of necessity. Our charitable institutions, it is gratifying to see, are bestirring themselves to do something worthy of the occasion, and their Christmas liberalities offer an object lesson which will not be lost on those who subscribe for the maintenance of these public benevolences. It so happens that a special appeal is made this year, too, on behalf of the victims of the Stockton disaster. That tragedy has offered us examples of the heroism of common life that we cannot afford as a community to ignore; and even if we should fail to carry on the old-world tradition of Christmas observance in other respects, and succeed in this, we will have done much to establish a precedent for the due celebration of a distinctively Australian Christmas.

CHRISTMAS DAY.

The attractions offered for to-day consist largely of entertainments of a sacred or philanthropic character, but ample provision has also been made for those who desire to spend the afternoon on the water or at a pleasure resort. The railway arrangements have already been published, while on the tramways the week-day time-table will be observed.

The excursions arranged by the Railway Commissioners for to-day include the following special holiday trains:—8 a.m., for Goulburn, affording an opportunity for visiting the Fitzroy Falls and other pleasure resorts in the southern tourist district; 7.38 a.m. and 5.20 p.m., for Nowra and the many beautiful spots in the Illawarra country; 8.20 a.m., for the Blue Mountains, as far as Mount Victoria; 8.15 a.m., for Newcastle, enabling visitors to spend the afternoon on Lake Macquarie; and at 9.5 a.m., for the Hawkesbury River.

The Sydney Philharmonic Society will, this evening, give a performance of "The Messiah" at the Town Hall. Mr. J. E. Sykes will preside at the organ, Mr. G. Rivers Allpress will lead the orchestra, and Signor Hazon will conduct. The principals are Miss Edith O. King, Mrs. C. C. Lance, Mr. Henry Wier, and Mr. F. J. Hallewell.

A Christmas carnival in aid of the poor of Waverley, to be preceded by a procession of public bodies will take place in the local park this afternoon. The Oriental Silver band and Norris's brass band will be in attendance. The attractions include a fire brigades' competition, bicycle races, tugs of war, fancy dress cricket match, foot racing, ladies' bicycle event for graceful riding, palmistry, &c. The undertaking has been organised by the Waverly Benevolent Society, which body since its inception in June last has distributed between £30 and £40 per month.

Harbour trips to Clontarf, The Spit, Flat Rock, Bantry Bay, and the head of Middle Harbour will be made by the steamers Birkenhead, Balmain, Leveret, and Psyche every half-hour from 9 a.m. Dancing will take place in the pavilion at Clontarf, and a string band has been engaged.

Manly will be supplied with an excellent service. The Port Jackson Co-operative Company announces its intention to run the whole of its fleet of six steamers at short intervals from 7.15 a.m. to 11.15 p.m.

A pony race meeting will take place at Lillie Bridge this afternoon. The programme consists of seven events. Bicycle races will also be held.

The Cyclorama, which should prove of especial interest at this season, will be open from 2.30 this afternoon until 10 o'clock to-night. The representation of the city of Jerusalem as it appeared on the first Christmas Day will be rendered even more realistic than hitherto by the introduction of appropriate music, including carols, solos, and concerted selections, and by a number of ingenious mechanical effects.

At the Gaiety Theatre to-night a classical concert will be given by a company composed of several well-known artists. Miss Neva Carr-Glynn, who has recently returned from a successful tour in Western Australia, will make her reappearance.

At the Coogee Palace Aquarium this afternoon a varied programme will be presented.

The Bondi Aquarium, with its picturesque grounds, will be open.

A garden party will take place at Botany this afternoon. Dancing in the pavilion on the grounds will commence at 1.30 p.m., and tea will be provided.

The Lumiere Cinematographe will be on exhibition at 478 George-street this evening, when three special programmes will be presented.

A trip to Pearl Bay, Middle Harbour, will be made this afternoon by the steamer Pheasant, leaving Prince's Stairs at 3 o'clock.

The Zoological Gardens will be open to-day. At 3 p.m. the elephants Jessie and Toby will be put through their wonderful performances, and at 4 o'clock the wild beasts will be fed.

A picnic will take place this afternoon and evening at Athol Gardens. A string band has been engaged, and dancing will be held in the pavilion. Steamers leave the quay at intervals between 2.30 p.m. and 8 p.m.

The Parramatta River Ferry Company elsewhere announce a special time-table to be observed to-day.

A sacred and classical concert will take place at the Royal Standard Theatre this evening.

A Christmas concert service will be held in the Unitarian Church, Liverpool-street, to-night. The Rev. George Walters will give a lecture with readings on "Dickens and Thackeray," and appropriate musical selections are to be contributed by Miss Llewellyn and Mrs. Bourke.

CHURCH SERVICES.

ANGLICAN.

At most of the services held in the Anglican churches to-day collections will be made on behalf of the clergy widows and orphans fund for the diocese of Sydney. Services will be held to-day as follows:—

St. Andrew's Cathedral: 7 and 8 a.m., holy communion; 11 a.m., preacher, Rev. Canon Sharp; 7.30 p.m., preacher, the Primate. Carols after service.

Christ Church St. Laurence: 6.30 and 8 a.m., holy communion; 10.30 a.m., matins; 11 a.m., choral eucharist with procession and sermon; 7 p.m., evensong with sermon, procession, and carols.

St. James' Church, King-street: 7, 8, and 9 a.m., holy communion; 10.15, matins; 11 a.m., choral eucharist and sermon; 7 p.m., choral evensong, sermon, and carols.

St. Mark's, Darling Point: 8 a.m., holy communion; 11 a.m., choral eucharist, sermon, and procession; 7.45 p.m., choral service.

St. Thomas', North Sydney: holy communion, 7 and 11.45 a.m.; carol service, 8 p.m.

All Saints' Woollahra: 8 a.m., holy communion; 11 a.m., service, Rev. R. K. Collisson; 7.30 p.m., service, Rev. H. W. Mort.

St. Barnabas', George-street West: 8 a.m., holy communion; 11 a.m., service, Rev. W. Martin; 7.45, carol service.

St. Thomas', Balmain: 8 a.m. and 7.30 p.m., Rev. John Dixon.

St. Simon and St. Jude's, Campbell-street: 11 a.m., Rev. J. G. Southby.

St. Matthew's, Bondi: 8 a.m., holy communion; 11 a.m., preacher—Rev. J. Best.

St. Paul's Redfern: 7.45 and 11 a.m. and 7.30 p.m., Rev. F. B. Boyce.

ROMAN CATHOLIC.

St. James' Roman Catholic Church, Forest Lodge: The musical portion of the service will be of especial interest, including a mass performed for the first time in Sydney with full orchestral party, Adams' "Noel," arranged by Mr. C. A. Bernasconi, "Adeste Fideles," and the "Hallelujah Chorus." Mr. E. Stevenson will lead the orchestra and the whole will be under the direction of Mr. T. M. O'Neill.

CONGREGATIONAL.

Pitt-street Congregational Church: 11 a.m., Rev. E. T. Dunstan. Carols by a large choir. A collection will be made on behalf of the Children's Hospital.

Trinity Church, Strathfield: 11 a.m., Rev. G. Littlemore.

Woollahra Church, Point Piper-road: 11 a.m., Rev. J. Fordyce, M.A.

Burwood Church: 11 a.m., Christmas service.

Marrickville Church: Rev. Dr. Roseby.

Glebe Church: 11 a.m., Rev. E. Adams.

WESLEYAN.

Centenary Hall: 11 a.m., choral service and brief address by Rev. W. Woolls Rutledge. The carols and anthems will be rendered by a full choir and orchestra.

PRESBYTERIAN.

Hunter Baillie Memorial Church, Annandale: 11, Rev. G. Paul, 7 p.m., Rev. P. F. Mackenzie.

OTHER SERVICES.

Abbotsford Mission Hall: 11 a.m., dedicatory service, Rev. S. T. Dickinson.

Burton-street Tabernacle: Annual Christmas festival, 7.45.

People's Hall, Sussex-street: Special service, 8 p.m., Mr. G. E. Ardill.

CHRISTMAS EVE IN SYDNEY.

CROWDED THOROUGHFARES.

MUCH JOYOUS ENTHUSIASM.

Christmas Eve was marked in Sydney by the usual outpourings of citizens from their houses, and if the streets were not actually flooded with people, they were certainly thronged. The result was that the main thoroughfares presented an animated appearance, especially between the hours of 3 and 6 o'clock in the afternoon, and again between 7 and 10 o'clock in the evening. There was not much to distinguish the streets from the aspects which they bore on the corresponding day of last year. But one feature was noticeable, and that was that the streams of pedestrians consisted wholly of well-dressed people of various ages, who were generally cheerful and in the most buoyant of spirits. Costumes of light texture, and also of light tints and combinations of light colours prevailed, and altogether the city conveyed the impression that some festival was being held in which all well-to-do citizens at least felt it incumbent upon them to participate. In the afternoon the vast majority of the people who filled the streets contented themselves with promenading the main arteries, but there was a percentage who, bent upon purchasing Christmas presents, realised their intention. A considerable proportion of this class used vehicles for the conveyance home of such articles as they might procure. With the people who filled the streets in the afternoon the utmost decorum prevailed. In the evening the streets were thronged by crowds in which there was an admixture of people of more demonstrative tendencies than those who filled the footways in the afternoon; but while they were more disposed to allow themselves to be controlled by the exuberance of their spirits, they were not guilty of any conduct to which serious exception could be taken.

PITT-STREET.

As a rule Pitt-street is comparatively quiet on holiday evenings. Only portions of the thoroughfare have any charm for sightseers. The busiest parts are in the neighbourhood of King and Market streets. Last night certain portions of the street were inconveniently crowded, but there was an absence of the bustle and confusion which characterised George-street. As one walked towards the Railway Station the scene became more quiet, and only occasionally were signs met with which showed that it was Christmas Eve and that the citizens of Sydney and suburbs were either finishing their shopping or parading the thoroughfares for amusement.

GEORGE-STREET.

George-street from Circular Quay to the Railway Station was crowded last night. There were people of all ages and of either sex. For a greater portion of the distance the footpaths were almost impassable. Now and then a constable bade all and sundry to "move on," but very little notice was taken of the mandate. The crowd was the greatest at the intersections of the different streets. At the corners of King, Market, and Bathurst streets small knots of people assembled, discussed each other's affairs, and wished each other the compliments of the season. The majority of those who were met with appeared to have come out for the purpose of pleasure rather than of business. Late marketing, however, was indulged in to a considerable extent, and many of the large retail shops were thronged. Children were carrying home armfuls of toys, whilst here and there a youngster would be found struggling with the Christmas goose. Fowls and ducks also made their presence known, and gigantic parcels which many people carried showed that the obtaining of the necessary articles for spending Christmas in a proper manner had been put off until the last moment. The 'buses were crowded either with people coming into the city or with those going out of it. It was certainly the easiest way of travelling, and from the top of a 'bus the thoroughfare, thronged with humanity and lighted with the glitter from the shop-windows, presented a strangely busy appearance. But it was slow work, for the drivers had to proceed cautiously to avoid accidents. George-street seemed most crowded about 10 o'clock. There was a gradual decrease in the numbers up to 11 o'clock, but even at that hour there were a good many people about. Towards midnight, however, the thoroughfare was practically deserted, and only a few persons here and there were to be met with on their way home.

KING-STREET.

King-street being one of the main arteries of the city is invariably on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve a place of irresistible attractions as a promenade. This arises partly from the fact that it forms an indispensable section in the main arteries of the city, and partly from the circumstance that the several florists whose base of operations it is, exercise considerable skill in making displays of flowers which excite much admiration. Yesterday this rule was faithfully carried out, and very attractive exhibitions were the result. Messrs. Pearce Brothers had their window gaily bedecked with a beautiful collection of flowers, of which Christmas and other lilies were a prominent feature. Messrs. Searl and Sons had exercised no small amount of ingenuity in decorating their window, and with a view to denoting the season of the year that was being celebrated had constructed a floral goose, which was seemingly composed of white summer chrysanthemums. One who confined his attention to the goose, if that were possible, might be inclined to think that the florists had exhausted their art in the production of this design; but seemingly to prove that this was not so they had also constructed a floral kangaroo, and thus typified that the festival that was being marked was an Australian Christmas. Miss Goodenough maintained the reputation she has won for tasteful displays by the excellence of the exhibition of flowers which graced the window of her establishment. What might be called the floral section of the street, attracted so much attention that there was a tendency at times for the traffic to become congested there, it was only by the exercise of the utmost patience that some of the pedestrians were enabled to see the displays made by the florists.

THE ARCADES.

Two at least of the arcades invariably assume a festive appearance on such occasions as yesterday. They are The Strand, which is bedecked with bunting that is in a large degree representative of all nations. The flags have been put up with some taste, and produce a very fine effect. Some hang from the galleries on each side of the Strand, while others have been erected with shields, in the form of trophies, on the bridges which run from gallery to gallery, and impart to the resort a scene of gaiety which at other times is absent. The Sydney Arcade also puts on a more than ordinarily cheerful appearance as Christmas approaches, a network being formed of lines of Chinese lanterns and flags, the effect thus produced being heightened by the employment of Japanese umbrellas for decorative purposes. These are the only two arcades the proprietors of which have bestowed any attention upon decoration. So far as the Royal and the Imperial arcades are concerned their ordinary appearance has to suffice. But decoration or no decoration, the whole of the four arcades mentioned are popular, the three first constructed especially so. For whenever the other main arteries of the city are thronged the arcades, especially those running westward of Pitt-street, share in the volume of traffic. As the space in each of these passages is limited, it seems to possess a peculiar fascination for many people, and the stream often reaches the verge of becoming congested. This was so at times last night, particularly in the case of the Strand.

THE TRAM TRAFFIC.

The tram traffic yesterday was unusually heavy. The foreman of the Bent-street terminal station remarked to a *Herald* reporter last night that there was an apparent increase of traffic on the majority of the lines as compared with last year. Where two cars were attached to the motors on ordinary days, there were three yesterday, whilst the one-car trams to Glebe Point and Crown-street were provided with two cars.

CHRISTMAS EVE AT THE GENERAL POST OFFICE.

A scene of unparalleled activity was witnessed at the General Post Office yesterday. This arose out of the operations incidental to dealing with the complimentary cards which people are accustomed to send to friends as Christmas approaches, and the necessity for not only handling the ordinary mails, but also the English mail which arrived yesterday. Apart altogether from the English mail, the work was very heavy; but with the English mail superadded it was so severe as to necessitate the putting forth of every effort of which the men were capable. One unacquainted with the operations of the General Post Office would suppose that when the influx of mail matter was phenomenally large, as was the case yesterday, the ordinary staff would be supplemented to enable them to cope with it, but it seems that outsiders, because of the want of the necessary training, would be of very little use at such a time—they would to some extent, because of the limited nature of the area in which the work has to be done, be in the way of others. Hence those composing the ordinary staff was prevailed upon to do their best to cope with the tons of matter which confronted them. There is an idea abroad that the practice of sending complimentary cards at Christmas time is on the wane, but the officers of the Post Office state that their experience does not support that conclusion. The only way in which pace could be kept yesterday with the mails as they arrived was by the men prolonging their hours of labour. The majority of the officers left their homes shortly after 5 o'clock in the morning, and entering upon their duties before 6 o'clock, remained at their posts (excepting during the brief intervals allowed for taking meals) until 8 o'clock in the evening. A later detachment commenced at 9 o'clock in the morning, and (excepting the brief respite allowed while they were taking their meals) they were continuously at work until 10 o'clock in the evening. How great the flood of Christmas cards has been was illustrated by the accumulations of letters and packets which had taken place during the night. The sorters were confronted on arrival by some 50 baskets, which they were politely requested to show their dexterity in dealing with. The contents of the 50 baskets represented, it was estimated, something like 30,000 packages. Then the place became inundated with mails—mail after mail poured in with such rapidity as to cause no little consternation even among men who are accustomed to handle mails. It would be useless to attempt to denote the number of waggon-loads of correspondence and cards that had to be dealt with, for the simple reason that the officers were too busily intent upon despatching to think of measuring the number of waggon-loads. Their anxiety was to get the matter out of the way; and to accomplish this with the necessary amount of facility it was necessary to impose additional burdens upon the letter-carriers. They were put upon their mettle, and, like the office staff proper, acquitted themselves most creditably. The English mail which had come to hand was no ordinary one. An ordinary mail would weigh about 360lb. This one was almost twice as bulky as the ordinary mail, as was shown by the fact that it weighed 630lb. The novice on entering the Post Office, and seeing the bulky packages which have to be dealt with so expeditiously, is appalled at the magnitude of the undertaking. He soon learns, however, that all the operations within the building have to be carried on with clock-like regularity, and this is the secret of the success of the institution. Letters are dealt with by one section of the staff, and newspapers, serials, &c., by another. Two sortings take place. First, a general one, which results in confusion being converted into a kind of general classification. By this time the packages or letters, as the case may be, have been grouped into general collections which severally represent destinations, which are north, south, east, west, suburban, or foreign. By the second sorting, the letters, &c., are classified into the districts for which they are destined. The most interesting of the sorting operations are those which take place in the centre of the despatch room—a room in which about 120 men were employed yesterday. In the centre of this room is a huge table, and when sorting operations are in full swing this table is surrounded by sorters. Upon the table are emptied the large baskets, which are kept solely for newspapers, periodicals, and packages. The men set to work upon the mass, and soon there is presented a spectacle which strongly resembles a gigantic fountain in full play; but instead of the cascades being produced by water they are composed of radiating arches of newspapers which are in flight through the air. Most fascinating is the effect of the scene thus produced. Each sorter takes up a package, and, examining it, sees at once what its destination is. Then he gives the package a peculiar jerk, and although the sorter has not looked in the direction which the package is intended to take it goes with unerring certainty to the bin or basket desired. If one could only transport these operations to some theatre, and let coloured lights play upon them, a fairy fountain of striking beauty would at once be produced. There is one thing that becomes evident to all spectators, and that is that post-office officials have no reason to complain of want of exercise.

The work done at the General Post Office yesterday, tabulated, was as follows:—Number of letters, post cards, Christmas cards, and parcels dealt with at the General Post Office on the 24th December, 1896: Receiving room, 173,006; despatch room, 251,600; registry room, 3262; parcels office, 1772. Of the 173,006 dealt with in the receiving room 77,578 were delivered by letter-carriers, 38,670 were delivered through private boxes and delivery room, and 56,758 were sent to the despatch room. The contents of the English mail received per Oroya yesterday consisted of letters from the following places:—United Kingdom, 36,269; Continental, &c., 3850; intercolonial, 17,564; total, 57,673.

CIRCULAR QUAY.

Although Circular Quay was not packed by the dense crowds of people that were to be seen in the brilliantly-lighted thoroughfares of the city, it presented a lively appearance last night because of the heavy traffic that passed over it. Early in the evening the steamers from North Shore, Manly, Mosman's, and Neutral bays landed their living freight, and some thousands of people streamed across the Quay and into the city to swell the throngs of those who observed Christmas Eve by seeing the sights of the city, or put it to the more practical use of purchasing the good things that are considered essential for Christmas Day. The electric lights showed the scene up well. For some time the stream of people was citywards; but shortly after 9 o'clock the tide turned, and it was evident that after parading the streets and seeing the displays made by the shopkeepers, those who had children with them were making for home. The parcels and bundles carried by many gave indications that Santa Claus and the children's stockings had not been forgotten. Across the water the steamers passed and re-passed, yet the traffic never seemed to stop, and it was late before the rush was over, and those who had spent the evening in the thronged streets and under rows of flaring gas jets had been conveyed across the quiet water to their homes on the other side of the harbour.

DARLING HARBOUR.

Busy as Darling Harbour may be on ordinary occasions, it is not a place that greatly lends itself to festive displays such as is made elsewhere on such occasions as Christmas Eve. At the southern end the railway yards and the storage and produce sheds are closed, and quiet at such a time. Still even there it was plain to the observer that the occasion was a holiday one, for people streamed across the bridge from Ultimo into the city, and later on streamed back again with their purchases for Christmas Day.

SOUP KITCHEN AND NIGHT REFUGE.

At the Soup Kitchen and Night Refuge, Kent-street, yesterday evening, the number of men who sought beds was less than on an ordinary week night. This reduction on Christmas Eve at this institution compared with other days is not unusual. The dining rooms were gaily decorated, the display being entirely the handiwork of Mrs. Talkes and her husband (the manager). There were flags of various nations, coats of arms, and mottoes displayed with artistic taste. Mr. Talkes (the manager) said he was glad to find that the gifts of provisions and money were more numerous than before. Preparations were made for giving a dinner to-day to about 400 persons. It was anticipated 250 men would be present to partake of a dinner of beef, vegetables, plum pudding, with cordials. They would also get a pipe, tobacco, and matches. Last year 434 persons had dinner on Christmas Day at this place.

PENNY DOSS LODGING-HOUSE.

At the Penny Doss Lodging-house in Victoria-place, off George-street, last night, the ordinary callers were present, but not in increased numbers. No steps were taken to mark Christmas Eve at this home. At the Mission Church in Sussex-street, however, a large number of representatives of poor families attended, and received donations of groceries, vegetables, and the materials to make a pudding for to-day. These goods were distributed free by persons connected with the mission.

SALVATION ARMY.

Provisions for a Christmas dinner were distributed yesterday at the Salvation Army Barracks to the representatives of 250 families. Taking each family to consist of five persons, it would mean that in this manner alone relief was distributed to 1000 souls. The scene at Goulburn-street between noon and 2 o'clock was extremely animated, and the officers of the Army had all their energies taxed to keep pace with the constant demand upon their resources. The relief was given out in parcels, each containing a joint of meat, a 2lb. loaf, 2lb. of flour, ½lb. of raisins, ½lb. of currants, and 7lb. of sugar. In order to guard against imposture only those families recommended by officers of the Army had their wants supplied.

HYDE PARK AND THE DOMAIN.

The scenes presented in Hyde Park and the Domain last night were different from those in the city. Everything seemed out of joint with the rest of the world. There were no busy chatterers with baskets filled with good things for Christmas. At the feet of the statues, near the fences and walls, on the hard seats, and on the ground under the trees, were destitute, homeless outcasts. Here and there a few scraps of bag, blanket, or newspaper served as a covering. In other cases there was no covering at all. Women were there as well as men, many of them being creatures who spend their lives almost wholly within the precincts of the park. It is painful to sit beside two of those old cronies and hear them as they drink the beer from a bottle that never seems to be absent relating tales of the past. Down by the rocks near the wharfs at the foot of the Domain there are regular habitues, each of whom has his own particular rock to sleep under, and his claim is never disputed. Many of those encountered in a journey last night were, it is regrettable to state, in a drunken state.

OXFORD-STREET.

The principal streets in the eastern suburbs were lively last evening. Oxford-street from the city to Waverley was very busy. The business premises generally were prettily decorated on the outside, although the internal decorations were not so plentiful as last year.

RAILWAY STATION.

It is some time since the railway station officials were more busy than they were last night. From the north, the south, and west special trains arrived with visitors to the metropolis; but what added to the animated scene at the station during the day and the evening was the large number of city people who left the metropolis for mountain or other country resorts. In the railway enclosure fronting Devonshire-street as far as its intersection with George-street there was a considerable amount of vehicular traffic, which was not facilitated by the somewhat inadequate lighting of this busy locality.

AQUATICS.

CHRISTMAS CRUISE.

A number of yacht owners and also smaller craft have taken advantage of the three days' holiday, commencing from to-day, for camping purposes. Amongst the yachting fleet, the Thelma was expected to get under way last evening for a trip on the Southern coast. Jervis Bay and other intermediate ports may be visited en route. The Iese, Sao, Bulbul, Archina, and probably Violet and others, will are this be on the way to the Hawkesbury. The Iduna will make a start to-morrow (Saturday) for Broken Bay, where her owner and a party of friends will spend a fortnight or so. This craft will have a steam tender at call, so that the lower reaches, &c., of the port may be fully explored, and, given fine weather, a pleasant time with such congenial company should be spent. The little Herreshoff will follow in a few days, but will journey further north. It is Mr. Cox's intention to visit Newcastle, and possibly some of the Northern rivers, where some good fishing is to be had. Of the smaller boats, no doubt some will make Broken Bay, and others Botany and Port Hacking. The majority, however, will bring up in Middle Harbour, North Harbour, and various other secluded spots, where the crews will have a good time.

A NEW HALF-RATER.

A craft in the half-rating class which appears to be very much ahead of anything of the kind in Sydney waters arrived a few days ago by the s.s. Australasian from London. She is fitted with a dagger fin, this, in addition to the crew, being the only ballast carried. The little boat is mahogany, built in full lengths, and is practically unsinkable. The only portion open is a small space to work the fin and a tiny cockpit of shallow draught. Otherwise she is watertight throughout. The most modern English ideas with regard to reefing and handling the sails have been adopted, so that, with little effort the rater may be snugged down at a moment's notice. Mr. Hordern, the owner, is expected to take his little flyer out for a spin this morning. It is quite possible that within the next few months we may have about half a dozen similar boats in Sydney Harbour.

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THE NATIVITY.

Wassail to the kingly stranger,
Born and cradled in a manger;
King like David, Priest like Aaron,
Christ is born to set us free.

So wrote the American poet, Longfellow, of the Nativity in his beautiful poem, "The Northern Baron," and those who have made history a study have agreed that at no period of the world's history was there so great a need for deliverance from slavery as then.

It is difficult for us now to realise the state of the world at the date of the introduction of Christianity. The whole superstructure of Roman society was based upon slavery of the very worst kind. The entire surface of the Italian peninsula was cultivated by slave gangs, the various factories were kept up by slave labour, the Roman galleys were worked by slaves, the clerical work was performed by slaves, and the amusements of the people were derived from gladiatorial contests in the arena between slaves kept for that purpose.

Butchered to make a Roman holiday.

So has Byron enshrined this iniquity in imperishable verse. Then the grand establishments of the nobles were filled with slaves, male and female, who had all domestic affairs under their control. Then the free population of Italy consisted but of two classes—the nobles and the plebs, who had degenerated into "mean whites," who were fed at the public expense. Froude's sketch of Cesar well illustrates this national state.

Slaves were not then savage barbarians; they were often trained mechanics; often had been merchants, farmers; often writers in their native land. They were prisoners of war, such as in these times would become really the guests of their conquerors, but in Roman times they became slaves for life. Wherever the Roman armies went there followed the slave contractors, who bought up the prisoners taken, and disposed of them as mere merchandise. Afterwards those unhappy people had no hope, their lives from beginning to end were one long round of misery. They were frequently treated with the greatest cruelty; they had no prospect beyond the grave. It was therefore to these unhappy people that Christianity appealed with the greatest force, for "the end of the world" was near at hand, and in the next world the master and the slave would stand on equal footing.

It would be interesting to trace the progress of this emancipation, by which the ethics of the Gospels became enshrined in the public conscience of these days. The movement was slow, but even in the times of Diocletian we read in Gibbon that the Christian slave, attendant at the toilet of the grand lady, whispered the truths of Christianity in her ears; and thus from the lowliest the movement reached to the highest in the land. The conversion of Constantine was in no sense a help for the spread of genuine Christianity; its ultimate effects were rather to transform the bishops into politicians.

Yet, notwithstanding all hindrances, the emancipation movement has progressed until at the present time slavery—that is, corporeal slavery—has been banished from every Christian country; even in Asia the mild domestic slavery indigenous to the East has practically ceased. It is only in the Dark Continent that slavery remains, and even there its days are numbered.

But there is another kind of slavery, or rather of bondage still extant—mental bondage—bondage to social, political, sectarian, or race prejudices. Emancipation from such is only yet in early progress. "Surely, Monsieur," remarks a Court lady of France in the last century, "God Almighty will never damn a man of that quality." "Sir," said the great English moralist Dr. Johnson, "I see that you are a vile Whig." The friends of the Rev. Mr. Irwine in Adam Bede were scandalised that he should allow Dinah Morris to preach in his parish; and even now race and colour prejudices are even stronger. "I am a Republican and a Democrat," recently said an American, "but I cannot sit down alongside of a nigger." In certain industrial organisations it is considered treason if any of the members meet on the workboard with Chinamen, although the Chinese are inoffensive, law-abiding people. Such Christians evidently ignore the text, "Be ye brethren," and do not realise that "In my Father's house there are many mansions." The apostles were not sent abroad to convert white men only, but to gather all men into the fold. Until this is recognised in the spirit, and actual deeds have shown living faith, we are not yet free from the bondage of slavery; though our minds are free, yet our minds are bond, and the work of the Gospel as evinced by the words of Longfellow, "Christ is born to set us free," are but half fulfilled. We are not set free yet.

P.

LORD CROSS ON SOCIAL PROGRESS.

Viscount Cross, in his recent presidential address at the Salt Schools, Shipley, near Bradford (says a report of the proceedings), said he felt deeply the absolute necessity of institutions such as those schools if trade and commerce were to flourish as they ought to do. He went on to express the hope that most of his hearers had read Sir Walter Scott's "Waverley," and said if some master hand could draw for us a living picture of England 60 years ago, so that we could compare it with England of to-day, we should perhaps realise more fully the blessings which we enjoy and which, in God's providence, he trusted we might long enjoy under the beneficent reign of our gracious and much-beloved Queen. He wished in passing to give utterance to the deep sense of gratitude which the people of this part of the country, not merely that her Majesty had reigned longer than any other ruler of this land, but that, while longer, the reign had been better, happier, brighter, more full of blessings for her people, and that we have had in her a pattern of wisdom and statesmanship, of firmness and courage, of purity in her Court, of love and affection in her home as wife, as widow, as mother. During the last 60 years distances had been annihilated by our railways and steamers; lightning had been tamed, as witness our telegraphs, telephones, and electric light; the mysteries of science and knowledge had been unfolded, and in every branch—astronomy, geology, geography, natural chemistry—he would not enumerate further—the learning of 60 years ago would seem the ignorance of to-day. The habits of the people had been happily changed. Religion had become more deep and earnest, temperance was rapidly spreading from class to class, crime had enormously decreased, and education enormously extended. He would give the students two cautions—first, they could not be taught a trade in the schools, but they could learn principles which, underlying their calling, might learn the character and nature of all matters which must of necessity come before them in their calling in after-life, but the trade they must work out for themselves. In the workshop or studio they had an advantage-ground all others did not. His second caution was: That they must not work too much by mere rule; they must learn—and this was the great secret of all learning—how to apply their knowledge to the best purpose. Science might be taught, but it was the application of science to the work in hand which was the great secret. If they could combine the two they would have a grand time before them. He concluded by declaring the schools open.

COUNTRY NEWS.

THE NARRABRI-MOREE RAILWAY.

NARRABRI, Thursday.

The contract for the Narrabri-Moree railway will expire on the 19th January. The work is well forward, but it is not likely that the line will be ready on that date. The contractors, however, have not yet applied for an extension of time. The Namoi bridge will delay the opening. The station buildings, the smaller bridges, and the ballasting work are all approaching completion.

THE RECENT FIRE AT NARRANDERA.

NARRANDERA, Thursday.

An inquest was held to-day at the local courthouse into the cause of the recent fire in the main street. The district coroner, Mr. Henry C. Tingcombe, presided. Mr. W. H. Farmer, fire insurance inspector and adjuster, represented the the insurance companies interested. No evidence was brought forward to show how the fire originated, and an open verdict was returned. Both the jury and the coroner complimented the volunteer fire brigade on the prompt and gallant way in which they worked at the fire, and Mr. Farmer promised to lay the matter before the Underwriters' Association on his return to Sydney.

RABBIT-PRESERVING INDUSTRY.

NARRANDERA, Thursday.

The Eurea Preserving Company of Victoria has decided to establish rabbit-preserving works in the Narrandera district, capable of treating 10,000 rabbits per day. The works will be erected at Whitton, on the railway line between Narrandera and Ravo, from which places the company will draw the supplies. For a distance of 30 miles from the line on both sides a large number of landholders in the rabbit-infested country have promised their supports. The establishment of these works means a considerable increase in employment, as a large number of rabbit-trappers and carters will be required. The company will commence operations about 1st March next. Rabbits are greatly on the increase, and hundreds are to be seen within half a mile of the town. They are doing great damage to the gardens.

THE WHEAT HARVEST.

NARRANDERA, Thursday.

Wheat-harvesting is still progressing, and the weather is all that could be desired for the purpose. The grain is of splendid quality, and the farmers are jubilant at the results of the season's yields. Teams are passing through daily heavily laden with wheat, which is now quoted at 4s 5d per bushel. Many farmers are holding back expecting to get more.

TERRIBLE EXPERIENCE WITH A DEATH-ADDER.

INVERELL, Thursday.

A farmer named George Palmer, who resides eight miles from town, while in his paddock to-day stripping wheat, attempted to catch a quail amongst the stubble, and in so doing was bitten by a death-adder. The reptile clung to his fingers, and Palmer's mate, who was working alongside, had considerable difficulty in removing the adder. Meantime the wound above the muscle of the arm and another above the wrist. The wounds on the fingers were scarified. A fast horse was procured, and Palmer rode to town, a distance of eight miles, in 20 minutes. The arm by this time had swollen to a great extent. Dr. Walter took charge of the case, and administered the Mueller strychnine remedy. There are hopes of his recovery.

RAILWAY FATALITY.

LIVERPOOL, Thursday.

An inquest touching the death of a man named Emerson, who was cut to pieces by the express on Tuesday morning, was held yesterday before the district coroner, Mr. H. H. Richardson, and a verdict of accidentally killed was recorded. Deceased had only been an inmate of the asylum for a few days.

DEATHS FROM HEAT.

BROKEN HILL, Thursday.

The weather was again very hot to-day, the thermometer registering 110 degrees. The heat was terribly oppressive through last night. Although several cases of heat apoplexy are reported, only one death has occurred, the victim being Friz Zucher, 59 years of age, and employed at the Grand Junction Mine. Bondy, an infant, 6 months old, died last night from the effects of the heat.

ALBURY, Thursday.

Intense heat has returned, the thermometer to-day recording 99° in the shade.

Two Chinese arrested recently for attempting to enter the colony illegally were before the bench to-day. The solicitor for the defence stated that the Collector of Customs had been written to, and that the defendants only came to Albury to consult a Chinese doctor, and under these circumstances the collector was willing to withdraw the charge on the defendants undertaking to return to Victoria immediately. The bench subscribed to and accepted that statement, and the prisoners were discharged on the understanding that they return to Victoria forthwith.

BULLI, Thursday.

Great satisfaction is expressed at the fact that the Bulli Coke Works have secured the contract for supplying the Hawarra Smelting Works with coke. This will probably mean more hands to be employed, as the output will have to be tremendously increased to cope with the requirements of the smelting company.

The Bulli mine has been exceedingly slack lately, very little work having been done for some weeks. The Helensburgh mine worked 44 days last week, but the fortnight's pay to be drawn on Monday is only equal to 6½ days. Fort Bellambi continues brisk. The steamer Captain Cook loaded 224 tons; the steamer Currajong, 360 tons; and the steamer Egmont, 352 tons.

Mr. J. H. Cater, mine manager of Bulli, has secured two contracts for sinking two shafts 2960ft. each from the Sydney Harbour Collieries Company at Iron Cove, Balmain.

BROKEN HILL, Thursday.

This afternoon a four-roomed wooden house and dwelling at South Broken Hill was totally destroyed by fire. The property was owned by John Treloar, a miner. The damage is estimated at £200, and the building was uninsured.

CARCOAR, Thursday.

Early this morning the sky was very overcast and cloudy, with every sign of rain. It cleared off before midday, and became exceedingly sultry. The weather is everything that could be desired for harvesting, and reaping operations. Many people have left by train to spend the Christmas holidays elsewhere.

COROWA, Thursday.

Yesterday and to-day have been exceptionally oppressive.

The body of an unknown man was found in the River Murray to-day.

Wheat deliveries are moderate; but there is a scarcity of teams this season. The price is 4s 5d.

Bush fires are raging on the Victorian side of the river.

COOLAMON, Thursday.

Burglars visited Messrs. Ashwood Bros.' general store during an early hour this morning. An entrance was effected by one of the back windows. A quantity of goods and over £20 in money were stolen.

DENILIQUIN, Thursday.

At a special meeting of the Deniliquin Hospital Miss Ellerton, of the Swan Hill Hospital, was appointed as a nurse out of 12 applicants.

GOULBURN, Thursday.

The Powell Park Estate, near Crookwell, of 4362 acres, freehold, has been sold through the Finlay Company to Mr. E. C. Barbour, of Victoria.

The temperature to-day was 97° in the shade. This has only been equalled once before this season.

GUNDAGAI, Thursday.

At a sitting of the local land board to-day a number of cases were dealt with.

In connection with the recent mining disaster at Jingkino a sum of about £1500 has been collected for the widows and orphans of Wilson and Webb.

Mr. Eugene M'Cabe, acting-gaoler for the past 15 years at Gundagai, died this evening.

The thermometer to-day recorded 110° in the shade.

HARDEN, Thursday.

A sale of work in aid of the funds of the local Wesleyan Church was opened last night in the Mechanics' Institute by the Rev. W. Thompson, of Young. The bazaar was well patronised, every article offered being disposed of. The stall-holders were:—Fancy department, Mrs. C. James, Misses Bembrick and Allsopp; basket stall, Mrs. Gillett; provisions, Mr. Gillett; refreshments, Mrs. and Miss Allsopp and Mr. Reid; post-office, Mrs. F. Allsopp.

The weather yesterday and to-day has been intensely hot, and a storm is threatening.

KIANDRA, Thursday.

The weather has been fearfully oppressive to-day. Rain is badly wanted.

LITHGOW, Thursday.

The weather was very warm to-day.

There was a general cessation of work this evening for varying periods. The coal mines generally will be closed until Monday, as will also the other mines and the smelting works. In other industries the stoppage will be more lengthy, to allow for cleaning up. Nearly 1000 workmen in various parts of the district will do little or nothing until after the holidays.

MOUNT VICTORIA, Thursday.

A very old resident of the district named Edward Field died at Hartley on Tuesday night, aged about 70. He was a native of the Nepean, and had been residing in Hartley over 50 years.

MOREE, Thursday.

Mr. James Granter, surveyor, of the Water Conservation Department, who is engaged in surveying for the drainage scheme near Moree had a narrow escape from drowning yesterday. Whilst he was trying to cross one of the several channels with the level on his shoulder he was swept down by the current for a distance of 30 yards. He was rescued by one of his men.

At a meeting of the Railway Demonstration committee held last night in the School of Arts it was decided to suggest to the Minister for Works that the official opening should take place on the 12th February. It is intended to invite the Governor and the Ministry to be present.

The Newings station (Queensland) clip was sent across the border at Mungindi on Friday. It had previously been sent via Warwick.

The weather is fine and warm.

NARRANDERA, Thursday.

Intense heat prevails here. The thermometer yesterday registered 103°, and to-day it reached 104° in the shade. Bush fires are raging to-day on the Coree Estate, near Jerilderie.

NEWCASTLE, Thursday.

A very successful rendering of Handel's "Messiah" was given last evening at the Olympic Hall, Newcastle, by the Musical Union, under the conductorship of Mr. A. W. Juncker. The soloists were amateurs with the exception of Mr. H. T. Gordon, from Sydney.

Meetings are still being held in various municipalities in aid of the Stockton Disaster Fund.

NARRABRI, Thursday.

It is reported that steps are being taken to have the Millie-Wahalura stock route question again opened by the land board. This route was only recently fixed by the Narrabri Land Board, which unanimously adopted the recommendation of District Surveyor Poate.

The decision of the Land Appeal Court in regard to the Nerrabeal land cases has been read with great interest here, and satisfaction is expressed at the opinion formed by the Court.

The weather continues very sultry. To-day the thermometer reached 100deg. in the shade.

PICTON, Thursday.

Forty acres of land were selected at the local lands office to-day.

TUMUT, Thursday.

The sky was overcast early this morning, but the clouds cleared away. To-day has been the hottest of the season, the thermometer registering 102° in the shade.

WAGGA, Thursday.

The weather was intensely hot to-day, the thermometer registering 106° in the shade.

WEST WYALONG, Thursday.

The weather was oppressively hot to-day, being 109° in the local post-office. Indications of a thunderstorm are apparent.

Hundreds of residents are leaving for the Christmas holidays. The coaches and vans are crowded daily for the Temora railway station.

CANADIAN FRUIT FOR THE QUEEN.

It is an exceedingly graceful and charming compliment which the fruitgrowers of Hamilton, Ontario, have just paid to her Majesty the Queen (says the London *Daily Telegraph* of 18th November). The sixtieth year of the Sovereign's reign has been marked in the Dominion by one of the finest crops of fruit ever grown there, and the loyal Canadian farmers conceived the idea of sending of their very richest and best to the Queen, with their warm and respectful congratulations on her having exceeded the span of any other English monarch in her occupancy of the throne. The offices of the High Commissioner for Canada, in Victoria-street, Westminster, were redolent yesterday with the delightful perfume of the choicest of apples, grapes, pears, and quinces. No country in the world could produce anything to surpass the excellence of the fruit which Canadian orchards and vineyards have laid at the feet of their Sovereign. There were rosy apples of enormous growth that had a perfume like a bouquet of choice flowers; the grapes had a delicacy of bloom and a luscousness that could not be excelled, while the pears and quinces were sufficient to tempt anyone to become, for the time at least, a total vegetarian. Sir Donald Smith himself superintended the arrival of the packages, and will arrange for their disposal in accordance with the Queen's wishes.

The High Commissioner was very enthusiastic over the perfections of the climate and soil of his native Canada as he inspected case after case of the magnificent fruit, which had arrived in prime condition after its 3000-mile voyage across the Atlantic. In the course of conversation Sir Donald remarked that "Canada has the most excellent climate and can grow the best apples and wheat in the world. The finest apple in existence is the celebrated Ladu Fureuse, which is grown on the island of Montreal, in the St. Lawrence, and possesses the most delicacy and sweetness of bouquet, and it is as beautiful as it is delightful to the taste. Unfortunately, it is a very tender fruit, and it will hardly bear transport to England. Recently, however, there has been sent to this country packed in separate compartments in boxes, much as eggs are packed, and those who have been able to obtain some are loud in their praises." Coming back to the specimens which had been sent for her Majesty's acceptance, Sir Donald said: "As the Queen's reign of fruit ever grown in the Dominion coincided with the longest reign of a British Sovereign, it was thought only fitting that a tribute of the first and finest should be sent to her Majesty. The Duke of Argyll has taken the settlers there in hundreds, and the second time Hamilton was only a tiny backwoods village, between 300 and 400 miles from the nearest ocean port, and that meant nearly a three weeks' journey over the roads then in existence. No wonder that Lord Lorne, when Governor, and the young monarch's reign had closed Hamilton would be able to send her the finest fruit in the world, and that the tribute would cross the ocean to London in less than half the time that it would have taken the settlers there when Her Majesty ascended the throne. Such an incident as this brings very clearly before one the enormous development of intercommunication between the countries of the world." In reply to a question as to the probable future of fruit-growing in Canada, Sir Donald, the High Commissioner said it was estimated at 3,000,000 barrels. Of this at least half would be available for export, and as the great bulk of it would come to England the people of the "old country" might have a full and generous supply for the coming winter at all events. The climate of Canada was especially suited for fruit-growing, and great attention was naturally paid to this industry. Nova Scotia, Ontario, and Quebec were the chief fruit growing provinces, and Ontario, especially in the Hamilton district, possessed a climate which was unsurpassed for horticulture, and almost all kinds of temperate and sub-tropical fruits ripened there to perfection. Ontario had been largely settled by Irish folk and their descendants, and they possessed warmly loyal feelings to the motherland. It was this feeling and the closeness of the ties which united the people of the province to England that had prompted the present manifestation of affection and regard for the "golden link of the Crown." Sir Donald said many other nice things about Canada and her climate, and a joking observation as to the severity of the winter there elicited the concluding remark that, so far from the Canadians being afraid of freezing or even noticeable, people in Canada never knew it was cold unless they looked at a thermometer.

THE QUEEN'S REIGN.

HISTORICAL RETROSPECT BY MR. JUSTIN M'CARTHY.

Next summer (says a London paper) the directors of the Crystal Palace will commemorate the completion of the first half of the Queen's reign by a Victorian exhibition and by special fetes and celebrations. Meanwhile it has been arranged to have a series of popular lectures demonstrating the advancement made during her Majesty's reign in the most important branches of science, letters, and industries, and the first of these was delivered on 25th October by Mr. Justin M'Carthy, M.P. Taking as his subject "The History of the Queen's Reign," Mr. M'Carthy remarked that in the first place to build up in a building in itself a lasting monument of the great reign which he sincerely hoped was still far from drawing to its close. (Cheers.) He would draw attention to the really extraordinary correspondence of the reign of Queen Victoria with

MONETARY AND COMMERCIAL.

Thursday Evening.

Scarcely anything was done in the Stock and Share market to-day, and prices may be quoted almost the same as yesterday. New South Wales Funded Stock gave way ¼. Banks were unaltered, a sale of New South Wales being effected at yesterday's price. For terminable deposits of the English, Scottish, and Australian Bank an advance of 4d was offered; and North Shore Ferry, City Mutual Fire Insurance, and Sydney Exchange were in request at rather higher prices.

On the Sydney Stock Exchange the following sale was reported:—At 1 o'clock: Bank of New South Wales, 34½. The closing quotations were:—

Company.	Capital paid up.	Amount of Shares.	Shares paid up.	Last Div. per annum.	Last Sale.	Buyer.	Seller.
Funded Stock.	£	£	£	p.c.			
N.S.W. Act 1892	2,983,010	...	...	4	111	109½	110½
Ditto Act 1873	550,188	...	...	4	112	114	...
Ditto Deb., 1902	399,300	...	...	5	109	109½	113
Ditto Deb., 1901							
N.S. Deb., 1913	300,000	...	...	4	105½	...	...
Colonial Sugar—							
Deb., 1914	...	...	...	5	103½	...	...
Deb., 1899	...	...	...	5½	104½	...	...
Deb., 1896	...	...	...	6½	102½	...	...
Mt. Lyell Deb.	150,000	...	...	...	108	...	...
Banks.							
Australasia	1,600,000	40	40	5	30/	21/	25/
Australian J. S.	1,166,022	10	7½	...	8/	...	8/
City	249,000	10	8	4	8/	...	8/
New Issue	160,000	10	8	4	8/	...	...
Com. of Aus. pref	2,118,560	10	10	...	...	...	...
Com. of Syd.	1,000,000	25	12½	8	24¾	24¾	25
N. S. Wales	1,943,940	20	20	8	34½	34½	34½
Ditto, New	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Q'land National	926,782	8	6	...	...	...	...
Union	1,500,000	75	25	5	25	...	25½
Deposits.							
A.J.S. Bank, Negotiable	5,000,000	...	...	...	14 3	14/	14 3
Ditto, Inscribed	301,141	...	...	...	12/	12/	13/
Com. of Aus. A series, 1898	5,835,065	...	...	...	15 7	...	...
E. S. & A. series	...	...	...	...	15	...	...
Ditto, Term'ble	517,000	...	...	...	17 6	18 4	19/
Ditto, Debentrs.	1,017,248	...	...	...	12 3	13/	...
Insc., pref.	1,980,000	...	...	...	...	11/	...
Ditto, def.	1,000,000	...	...	...	...	...	...
Nat. of Aust.	3,985,651	...	...	...	19 7	...	...
Q'land National	6,013,000	...	...	...	15/	...	...
Steam.							
Illawarra	58,008	5	5½	8	5½	5	...
N. and H. R.	160,008	1	1	6	18/	18 3	18 9
North Coast	121,743	1	17 6	6	15	14 6	15/
N. S. Ferry	60,000	1	1	10	41/	40 9	41 6
Port Jackson	54,640	5	60/	...	5 6	...	6/
Insurance.							
A. M. Fire	25,000	1	5	23	18 3	18/	...
City M. Fire	15,000	1	2	10	2 9	2 9	3/10
Mer. Mut.	18,750	1	2 6	20	8	...	8 3
New Zealand	200,000	10	2	17½	20 6	...	67 6
United	62,500	10	2½	17	83/	...	83 6
Ditto New	5,725	10	12	12½	18 6	...	...
Gas.							
Australian	847,208	6	6	9	15½	15½	16
City Goulburn	10,000	1	1	15	47	...	46
Grafton	8,000	1	1	8	23 2½	23/	25/
Manly	15,000	1	1	7	22 6	22 6	24/
Mudgee	8,000	1	1	6	19 9	18 6	21 6
Newcastle	95,127	2	2	12½	98/	...	5
North Shore	80,328	1	1	6	24/	...	24 6
Ditto, New	...	1	10	6	...	...	...
Breweries.							
Australian	96,000	1	1	5	15/	14/	14 9
Castlemaine and Wood Bros.	250,000	1	1	5	18 6	18 3	18 6
Marshall's	25,250	10	5	...	4 1	3 11	4 1
Perkin's	58,333	15	15	10	20 8	...	21
Tooth's	900,000	1	1	7	22	21 6	22
Lager Bier	5,000	1	1	...	...	...	...
Ditto ditto	60,000	1	10	...	10 3	...	...
Miscellaneous.							
Aarons	17,500	15	10	8	4/	...	4/
B.H.W. Sup. x d	186,500	1	1	10	...	12/	12 9
Burns, Philp	250,000	1	1	7½	24 3	23 6	25/
Ditto	17,500	1	5	7½	...	...	...
Col. Sugar	1,702,000	20	20	10	26½	26½	26¾
Dalgety Co.	1,000,000	20	5	8	...	...	5 9
Eagle Tobacco	71,500	15	15	...	37½	...	...
Emu Gravel	34,000	1	1	2½	4 6	4 3	...
Fresh F'd & Ice	108,000	1	18/	10	21 6	...	...
Harrison, Jones, and Devlin	50,000	1	1	8	22 6	...	...
Ditto	50,000	1	10	8	10 6	...	...
Melb. Tramway	480,000	1	1	8	19	...	...
Mont de Piété	73,107	1	1	10	33/	32 9	34/
Perm. Trustee	25,000	5	2 6	4	1 9	...	1 9
Perpet. Trustee	25,000	10	5/	6	7 6	6 9	8/
Mort's Dock	150,000	1	1	6	...	...	...
Richardson and Wrench	60,000	1	1	5	9 9	...	...
Shale and Oil	75,000	1	15	...	7 3	7 2	7 8
Silv. Tram	197,800	1	1	50	93 6	91/	93/
Syd. Exchange	20,000	10	10	7	14½	14½	...
Syd. Hydraulic	75,000	1	10/	7½	19 6	19/	19 9
Syd. Tramway	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Vic. Land Orders	...	...	...	...	125	...	...
Land & Build. Asst. M. Inv. and B. Dep.	...	...	...	...	1 1	...	...
Com. Build. & In.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Haymark't Dep.	...	...	...	...	11/10	12 6	...
Fed. Build. Dep.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Industrial Prov.	...	...	...	...	15½	15½	...
Intercolonial	31,713	20	15	10	10/	...	...
Nat. B. Land & Invest. Dep.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Sydney Freehold	...	...	...	...	...	7 9	...
Sydney and Suburban Deposit	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

The year's business in investment securities closing to-day has been characterised by steadiness rather than activity. The abundance of money and the inability to find other satisfactory sources of investment stimulated the demand, and it may be said for the like reason caused holders to be firm and comparatively unwilling to sell. In consequence prices generally had a fairly steady upward tendency. New South Wales 4 per cent. Funded Stock have given way 2 since the issue of 3 per cent. stock. Commercial Bank of Sydney close at the highest point reached—a rise of 5¼ in the year. Bank of New South Wales also are at the top, and 5¼ up in the 12 months. City Bank are about the same as at the beginning of the year; Australian Joint Stock having given way 12s, and Union of Australia 1½. National Bank of Australasia deposits have risen 1s; English, Scottish, and Australian, 2s; Australian Joint Stock being down 2s on the year. Steam shares have had a general rising movement, Illawarra being up 20s, North Coast 3s, Newcastle and Hunter River 6s, and North Shore Ferry 3s. Breweries also have risen—Australian 4s, Tooth's 2s, and Castlemaine and Wood Brothers 1s. Gaslight shares are higher—Australian ½, North Shore 1s, Newcastle 15s; the rise in these shares being less than in the case of others for the reason that recovery in them had been greater in the year 1895. Insurance shares have likewise risen—United 10s, Australian Mutual 2s, City Mutual 7d, and Mercantile Mutual 1s 6d; New Zealand Insurance having given way 5s. The shares of miscellaneous companies have generally risen; Colonial Sugar, though 1 below the highest point reached, are up 2½ on the year; Dalgety and Co. are ½ higher, Mont de Piete 5s 6d, Sydney Hydraulic 3s 6d, Richardson and Wrench, Limited, 2s 6d, Harrison, Jones, and Devlin, Limited, 2s 6d. Permanent Trustee are 3d lower, Perpetual Trustee 3d, Sydney Exchange 1; Broken Hill Water Supply 9d, Eagle Tobacco 6d, Sydney Exchange 1.

The effect of the advance on market values of those having their head offices in New South Wales is shown in the following table. We give the paid-up capital and the values at the market prices, together with the market values adjusted to a like amount of stock at the close of December, 1895 and 1894, so that the comparison may be exact:—

Companies.	Paid-up Capital Dec., 1896.	Market Value Dec., 1894.	Dec., 1895.	Dec., 1896.
	£	£	£	£
Banks (4)	4,513,900	4,147,000	4,950,000	5,704,000
Steam (4)	330,840	293,020	328,480	361,185
Insurance (4)	126,775	197,625	245,375	282,849
Gaslight (5)	756,925	1,508,000	1,838,300	1,976,000
Breweries (4)	1,277,200	890,700	1,166,750	1,309,000
Finance (3)	122,107	137,626	153,000	175,576
Total	7,176,897	7,111,995	8,706,805	9,918,610

Two years back the market value of the shares was £75,000 short of the paid-up capital, but during the year 1895 there was a recovery of £1,695,000, or 22 per cent., and in the past year a further rise of £1,211,805, or about 14 per cent. For the two years there was a total recovery of 39 per cent. The rise in the market value of banks during the year was 15 per cent., in steam 16 per cent., in insurance 15 per cent., in Gaslight 6 per cent., in Breweries 20 per cent., and in Finance 14 per cent., until about October, when in the cases of most securities they reached their highest limit. Since then the movement has been a fluctuating one—a few stocks being higher and others slightly lower. But on the whole the year closes with prices generally about as high as they have been at any time during its currency.

The annual report of the National Mutual Life Association of Australasia, Limited, for the year ended 30th September shows that 3276 new policies had been issued, amounting to £780,195, as compared with 2843 policies, assuring £643,755, in the preceding year. The net premium income for the year amounted to £213,735, of which £190,918 was renewal premiums and the balance new premiums, interest produced £79,071, and fees £121. Claims under policies, including bonus additions, amounted to £61,905; endowment assurances matured were £25,096; endowments matured, £6915; surrenders paid in cash, £19,475; surrenders repaying loans and premiums advanced, £16,519; annuities, £548; premiums returned, £110; bonuses paid in cash, £6805; license fees, taxes, and general expenses, £53,382. The funds, which amounted to £1,560,223 at the beginning of the year, were increased to £1,662,391 at the close. The interest realised on the funds is more satisfactory than last year, and an increase in renewal premiums contrasts favourably with a decrease in the previous year. This report is to be presented at the annual meeting on the 29th December, at which date also an extraordinary general meeting will be held to confirm resolutions passed at a meeting held on 11th December for the taking over of the business of the Mutual Assurance Society of Victoria, Limited.

The report of the Scottish Australian Investment Company for the half-year ended 30th June shows net profits amounting to £7818, of which £7500 was devoted to the payment of a dividend at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum. The season had not been a favourable one on the company's stations, of which there were 11 with 745,289 sheep, 81,175 cattle, and 2972 horses, but the hope was expressed of better results hereafter.

This month's "Journal of the Institute of Bankers of New South Wales" is mainly occupied by a report of Mr. J. T. Walker's paper on "The Finances of Federation," and by a financial summary of the year, including the features interesting specially to bankers.

London news by the Oroya (s.) received to-day shows the money market to have been in a very unsettled condition, 3½ to 4 per cent. being paid for call loans. On the 19th November gold was in strong demand for the Continent. Tight as was the money market for immediate business accommodation in the middle of November, it did not prevent the county of Hertford from getting £155,000 in 2½ per cent. stock, with a currency of 20 years, at an average of £95 4s 9d, or about £2 16s 10d per cent. per annum. Late news from New York pointed to "bull" operations in stock. The talk of war troubles with Spain, however, operated to weaken the market.

The *Times* having stated that unless justice is done to the New Plymouth Harbour Board bondholders, the council of the Corporation of Foreign Bondholders would oppose the granting of a quotation to any future New Zealand loans, afterwards acknowledged that it was only the committee of the New Plymouth Harbour Board bondholders which had asked the council to oppose the granting of the quotation, and the council only had the matter under consideration. In declaring it was sorry to have made the misstatement in its leading columns, the *Times* helps the colony by the remark: "We have recently been placed in possession of information which satisfies us that their grievances against the New Zealand Government are not really substantial, and that, in spite of its somewhat careless treatment of the question of the so-called 'confiscated' lands, the colony has not done anything to deserve that any future issue of its securities should be 'posted' on the Stock Exchange."

The importance of varying the crops cultivated, instead of depending on a single plant or two or three, is forcefully illustrated by a report and statistics recently published by Mr. L. G. Powers, Commissioner of the Bureau of Labour of the State of Minnesota. The ground covered is the 10 States of the Mississippi Valley, in which maize stands as the first crop, hay the second, and wheat the third. The general result of the complete analysis shows that these 10 States have produced 70 per cent. of the grain crop since 1862. The area includes the vast total of 600,000 square miles, of which 85,000 are in grain. While the principal crops now are maize, hay, wheat, oats, rye, barley, potatoes, and tobacco, there is a large aggregate of other products, notably fruit, linseed, hops, and very many other field crops. In eggs there is an enormous traffic with the East in special refrigerator cars prepared for that particular service. The average value of the product of poultry and eggs in America alone is equal to that of wheat, eggs alone exceeding £20,000,000. The following table, which summarises the results in Mr. Powers's report, are interesting:—

Four Year Periods.	Acreage in Crop.	Product in Tons.	Value in Gold Dols.	Value per Ton in Gold Dols.
1891-4	419,812,203	315,713,008	3,832,632,399	12·14
1887-90	401,300,210	293,274,506	3,671,292,877	12·52
1883-6	391,806,580	213,087,077	3,462,810,896	13·06
1879-82	335,831,265	251,506,102	3,997,463,217	15·85
1875-8	295,228,265	219,784,071	2,534,780,002	11·53
1871-4	195,069,147	149,117,351	2,175,850,554	14·59
1867-70	165,335,337	133,892,776	2,120,234,867	15·86
1862-6	164,268,137	137,876,262	1,765,898,277	12·78

These figures show some decrease in the yield per acre from ·828 tons in 1875-8 to ·752 tons in 1891-4; but there is an increase in the gold yield from 11·53dols. per ton to 12·14dols. The actual yield per acre in 1891-4 was 9·13dols. per acre, and in 1875-8 9·54dols. There is not an absolutely larger yield of gold per acre, as Mr. Edward Atkinson, writing to the *Economist*, declares there is; but at least it may be said the reduction in gold value is much less than the general reduction in value of products with which farmers exchange their produce. And that result is no doubt due to the character of the farming, which gives a larger proportion of high-priced produce than was raised 20 years ago. No doubt agricultural colleges have done a vast deal to raise the intelligence and capacity of the American farmer. He takes fuller advantage of labour-saving implements than he did. On this subject Mr. Powers remarks that, owing to the use of improved tools and machinery, the average farm worker in the Mississippi Valley has a producing power above that possessed by his predecessor of 35 years ago of 60 and possibly 75 per cent. As a matter of fact, taking the force of farmers and farm labourers in the 10 States at 2,147,000 in 1873, and 3,140,700 in 1895, the figures in our table show that in the 22 years there was an increase of cultivated area per man of 47 per cent. Commenting on this development Mr. Atkinson remarks:—"There has been constant progress in wealth and welfare throughout this great growing area. The reduction of farm mortgages has proceeded with accelerating speed from 1873 down to 1892." The vast progress in the United States suggests what are the possibilities when the right class of population comes in our own vast territories.

During the recent elections in the United States nothing that could be conceived was left undone to bring conviction home to the mind of the voter that cheap silver money meant money of reduced purchasing power. The following, which a correspondent supplies from an American source, furnishes an illustration of the practical nature of the schemes to win the election.

"Object lessons," in which the Mexican silver dollar is utilised, are becoming a familiar feature of the present Presidential campaign. The Atkinson Furnishing Company, with headquarters at Boston, and five branches in Maine, has for some weeks past been paying its employees alternately in Mexican dollars and five-dollar gold pieces. Every employee who received his pay in Mexican coin got with it a letter, in substance as follows:—"To our employees. The company pays your wages this week in Mexican dollars. We bought them in the open market at a cost of 55 cents each. We pay them to you at the rate of two for one of United States money. When you come to pay your bills with these dollars you will have a good illustration of the real value and actual purchasing power of the 420 grains of silver contained therein." With the gold coin employees received a letter, in part as follows:—"To our employees. Last week we paid you in silver dollars at about the real value of silver contained in them. You received twice as many as you do this week. Your wages, measured by the number of 'dollars' received, were increased 100 per cent. We have given you what the silver orators say you need—cheap money and plenty of it. This week we pay you in gold coin. . . . If any of you believe that the silver party will be successful, and you want to make some money on the plan which they advocate, you can keep this money until the 'good times coming,' when the new plan becomes law, then exchange your gold for silver bullion, carry it to the mint, have it coined without charge, and get twice as many 'dollars' as you had before. If you find you cannot buy any more with them than you could with half that number before, don't mind a little thing like that. You have got more 'dollars,' and that is what you want. Any of them you don't spend immediately will be found useful in the household, as stove lids and dinner plates." It is humiliating indeed to our national pride to be obliged to admit that such "object lessons" are necessary among a people who have boasted so much of the efficiency of our public school system and the superior intelligence of the average American as compared with the average European. But the spread of the free silver coinage craze seems to show that when brains are lacking no school-books can be of much service.

In no branch of British industry perhaps has the effect of the recent improvement been more marked than in the iron and steel trade, which is all the more satisfactory perhaps because it was here that Great Britain had fallen back. The production of pig iron receded from 8,493,000 tons in 1882 to 6,870,000 tons in 1886, rose to 8,245,000 tons in 1889, fell back to 6,616,890 tons in 1892, advanced to 7,895,000 tons in 1895, and, according to the *Economist*, is expected to reach 8,650,000 tons this year. Of this the home consumption is estimated at 5,150,000 tons, and for export 3,500,000 tons. This increase is due to the fact that prices had not risen very greatly, nothing like so rapidly nor so high as in previous revivals of trade; the price since 1893 had never descended below 40s, nor risen much over 50s, the range this year having been between 45s and 48s 6d. It had been found possible to sell at these prices, and in consequence to produce so much more largely owing to the low prices ruling for coal. Higher freights increasing the cost of importing foreign ore was the principal factor tending to raise the cost. The output of Germany is also expected to show an increase from 5,431,000 tons in 1895 to about 6,000,000 tons; that of the United States, it is thought, will decline from 9,500,000 tons to 8,000,000 tons. Great Britain will thus be the largest producer of pig iron this year. The present condition of the trade is said to be undoubtedly very satisfactory. Within the last few weeks there has been a decided change in the condition and prospects of the shipping trade, and this has led to orders being given out very freely for new tonnage, which will likely keep the yards fully employed for some months to come. Another department which was depressed for a very long period has experienced a decided change for the better. The export of railway material has increased from 341,629 to 567,775 tons in the nine months ending 30th September, and any further developments in this department would have an important influence on the trade as a whole. The general export trade has grown all round during the last two years, says our London contemporary, and is likely to develop still further unless prices are advanced too rapidly.

It is advertised that the business of Messrs. Chas. P. Stokes and Co., Newcastle, will be carried on by Mr. Mark MacDermott on behalf of the firm.

IMPORT MARKET.

Nothing transpired to-day that calls for special comment, wholesale houses assuming almost a holiday aspect. A little export trade, however, was done, and a parcel of 1500 bags of local wheat changed hands at 4s 10d f.o.b. for Queensland.

A private cable has been received from San Francisco quoting No. 1 Californian milling wheat at 4s 7½d c.i.f. and e. Sydney, and 4s 9d c.i.f. and e. Melbourne, Adelaide, or Brisbane.

Sugar in Queensland.—Regarding the sugar market in the north, the *Sugar Journal*, writing under date Mackay, 15th instant, states:—

The crushing season still continues in the case of a few isolated mills, but generally the work of the harvest has closed. The new crop is now receiving all the attention. Rain has been needed a good deal, as the heat has been intense in most of the sugar centres, and the showers reported by us last month have quickly evaporated. However, every district has had some rain. In a few cases the moisture has been ample for all present requirements, but in the majority of cases more rain is desired, though the crops are on the whole healthy, the young cane having also come up evenly. Thundershowers are now looked for daily, as upon these depend what rain we get at this time of the year. The outlook, however, in the Northern districts is decidedly better than it was at this time last year, and the great heat prevailing gives hope that the rains, when they come, will prove very much more beneficial than they did twelve months ago. The outlook for the new crop is generally not unsatisfactory, and in some cases, such as on the Johnstone and in the Brisbane districts, it is decidedly good. Late planting is being done in many places, and in several localities we hear that an attempt is being made to have a large area of land ready for planting in the early winter. At present no estimate of the new crop can be formed, its present appearance being no guide as to what it will be in the course of the next two or three months. In general terms, however, there should certainly be an increase over the output of this year.

The quantity of sugar exported from Queensland during the first six months of the sugar season 1896-97 has been as follows:—

	Whites.	Yellows.	Rations.	Total.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
June	178	69	622	869
July	2,234	1,189	2,809	6,232
August	3,257	305	8,989	12,551
September	3,905	478	12,842	17,315
October	2,087	429	13,409	16,555
November	1,329	212	9,303	10,949
Total	13,583	2,682	48,304	64,471

During previous years the exportation has totalled as follows:—

1896-97.	1895-96.	1894-95.	1893-94.
Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
64,471	52,985	48,965	28,449

Bonded Stocks of Sugar.—Thus early in the season the bonded stocks of sugar have began to shrink, the actual quantity in bond to-day being 12,978 tons, against 13,240 tons last week. No doubt, however, when fresh supplies come from Mauritius the figures will again move in an upward direction. At the close of 1895 there were 19,571 tons of sugar in bond; in 1894, 17,703; and in 1893, 13,622 tons.

Indian Tea Market.—The s.s. Argus brings 24,921lb. of tea from Calcutta to Sydney, and 78,170lb. to Melbourne.

The Customs revenue received at Sydney to-day amounted to £3545. The principal items were:—

Spirits, £675; wine, £80; ale, porter, and beer, £90; tobacco, cigars, and cigarettes, £420; sugar and molasses, £500; opium, £97; dried and candied fruits, £81; glucose, solid, £97; oil, kerosene, £44; pilotage, £25; harbour dues, £10; excise on tobacco, cigars, and cigarettes, £1000; excise on beer, £407. Total, £3545.

EXPORT MARKET.

Butter in London.—Yesterday some figures were given relative to the exportation of butter from this colony to the United Kingdom. To-day are appended the average prices realised for the descriptions enumerated, compiled from Coey and Co.'s, Limited, weekly market report, the corresponding figures for 1895 being also given:—

—	Choice factory.		Fine.		Medium.	
	1896.	1895.	1896.	1895.	1896.	1895.
January 1	107/	100/	93	96	99	98/
February 1	107/	98	105	92	100	84
March 1	100/	89	86	84	91	78/
April 1	96	77/	91	71/	89/	68/
May 1	91/	78/	89	68/	85	62/
June 1	86/	78/	78/	66/	79/	62/
July 1	86/	88/	82	81/	73	72/
August 1	97/	97	98	89/	81	81/
September 1	106/	98	98/	91/	90/	—
October 1	106/	100	98	92	90	—
November 1	115/	130/	108	123/	—	—

It will be seen from the above table that prices this year were uniformly higher than those of 1895 until November, when lesser prices were accepted. The lower grades were, however, quite out of the market towards the close of last year.

The Tallow Market.—During the year now drawing to a close the exportation of tallow has been on a markedly restricted scale as compared with previous years. Despite this, which has been chiefly due to the drought, prices have been very low; in all cases uniformly below those current in the preceding year. The prices for medium quality mutton and beef tallow at the beginning of each month compare with those of the same period in 1895 as follows:—

	Medium Mutton.		Medium Beef.	
	1896.	1895.	1896.	1895.
	Per cwt.	Per cwt.	Per cwt.	Per cwt.
January 1	21s 6d	23s	20s 3d	22s
February 1	22s	22s 3d	20s 6d	21s 3d
March 1	21s 3d	22s 3d	19s 9d	21s 3d
April 1	21s	22s 3d	19s 6d	21s 3d
May 1	20s	22s 6d	18s 6d	21s
June 1	18s 9d	22s 6d	17s 3d	21s
July 1	18s 9d	22s	17s 3d	20s 6d
August 1	18s	21s 6d	16s 3d	20s 3d
September 1	19s	21s 6d	17s 6d	21s 6d
October 1	20s 6d	22s 3d	18s 9d	22s 3d
November 1	19s 6d	22s	17s 9d	21s 6d
December 1	20s	22s 3d	18s 6d	21s 6d

From the port of Sydney exports show a shrinkage of approximately 50,000 casks during the year, as compared with those of 1895, and a somewhat lesser number as compared with those of 1894. The actual figures are subjoined:—

	1896.	1895.	1894.
	Casks.	Casks.	Casks.
January	4,467	7,880	8,305
February	1,410	12,663	12,248
March	5,280	8,917	8,445
April	2,284	8,423	9,916
May	7,534	12,322	4,635
June	4,407	18,514	7,850
July	1,436	4,159	8,189
August	9,806	12,155	9,261
September	5,349	6,147	3,154
October	7,278	9,972	15,247
November	3,377	2,895	9,781
December	—	11,559	9,719
Totals	52,720*	115,672	106,720

* Less December, not yet complete.

Regarding the London market, the most recent circular of Messrs. Cuthbert and Halls, to hand by to-day's mail, states:—

The market since the last auctions has been dull, and no "spot" inquiry to speak of. The demand usually slackens towards the close of the year, but rarely so early as in the present instance; it may be accounted for by the large deliveries ex store the last two months, many purchases in excess of immediate requirements being induced by the advance in values. For shipment but few transactions can be recorded, and these generally of inferior and mixed sorts at 19s 6d to 19s as to strength.

Chilled Meat Market.—The Pastoral Finance Association, Limited, report:—Frozen Meat, London: There has been no alteration in prices during the past week. Sales have been slow, and heavy arrivals expected. New South Wales mutton can be quoted at 2¼d to 2⅜d per lb., London. The s.s. Denton Grange completes her large shipment of 37,000 carcasses, loaded from the Kirralalli Freezing Stores of the Pastoral Finance Association, and sails for London before Christmas. Chilled Meat, Sydney: The approach of the holidays has caused a tendency to dullness in the markets. Sales in the trade are not extensive, any line suitable being bought for export, prime mutton in shipping order being worth 1¼d per lb. Trade descriptions, ¼d to ½d, according to quality. Beef: Prime bodies sold at 1½d to 1⅝d per lb., hinds to 2d, fores to 1d to 1¼d, medium quality 1d to 1½d per lb., body hinds 1½d to 1¼d, and fores ¾d to 1d: plain beef difficult to place. We sold a consignment from Gunnedah at quotations.

Wool Receipts.—At Darling Harbour to-day 2576 bales of wool were manifested, 911 arrived coastwise, and 95 bales were received by rail at Newcastle yesterday. During the past week, ended Thursday, 13,198 bales of wool were received by rail at Darling Harbour, and 3441 bales arrived coastwise, making a total of 16,639 bales.

LONDON WOOL MARKET.

LONDON, Nov. 20.

The opening of the sixth and last series of wool auctions for the year on Tuesday next, 24th instant, is looked forward to with a good deal of interest and curiosity. Then it is expected will be the start of an upward movement in values for wool, and which many anticipate will be the forerunner of a strong current of good trade for many months to come.

How far these expectations will be realised remains to be seen, but at this early stage it might be unwise to anticipate anything in that direction. The end of the year will soon be here, and with it all the uncertainties of holiday-making and stock-taking.

Transactions by public and private treaty, which have recently been held, of the "fibre," although some removes from the same category, yet evince some indication of the trend of markets affected more or less by the textile industry in general. These have not shown that bound upward which some enthusiasts maintained would follow the settlement of the Presidential contest in America.

The selling brokers have distributed the programmes for the impending wool auctions, which, commencing on the 24th November, will extend until the 11th December. The net total available as near as can be estimated will be 200,000 bales. The duration of the sales is more by two days than same series 1895.

Yesterday at the Wool Exchange some 5300 bales sheepskins were submitted to public competition, comprised almost entirely of Australasian produce. The attendance of the trade was a good one, home as well as continental buyers being present. Throughout the lots met an animated competition.

Prices, compared with the previous periodical auctions in October on merinos and fine crossbred sorts were ½d to ¾d per lb. higher. Inferior rough crossbreds went without change.

The bulk of the purchases were secured for the home trade.

Particulars of some brands sold and prices realised will be found at foot. In manufacturing centres the general feeling is one of continued confidence. The tone of the market is strong. The demand for ordinary 60's, and 40's crossbreds, is particularly good. The stock, however, is very limited, and that alone is sufficient to add strength to the market.

The volume of turnover is not very great, buyers preferring to supply immediate wants only, in view of London sales opening next week.

In yarns, the spinners have much the best position; being well employed, they can easily uphold values.

The home trade is slightly better; but export business is only quiet.

On the whole there are more looms working than for some time back, with fairly good prospects in the near future, although thus far American trade has been disappointing, and far from what some sanguine traders felt disposed to look for.

The woollen cloth industry maintains a good average turnover.

At Leipsic public sales of noils elicited fair animation, and a good attendance of buyers was mustered. Prices rose ½d to ¾d per lb. above those ruling in September.

In Berlin there has been an active demand for "tops" and noils, the prices for which are steadily advancing.

On the other hand, quotations for River Plate wool "top" futures are lower from 2½ to 7 points. The movement may be to check in a measure any attempt to get values up at the London auctions next week.

The following are a few brands sold and prices obtained of sheepskins in yesterday's public sale:—

Victorian.—AB, combing at 5½d, 5¾d, 4½d, 5¼d, 5¾d, clothing at 4¾d, 4¼d, crossbred combing at 6¼d, 6¼d, 5½d; MAJ, combing AA at 5½d, combing A at 5d, clothing A at 4¼d, clothing B at 3¾d, combing crossbred at 5¼d, 5¾d, 5¾d, 5¾d, 4½d; O Three Legs DC, combing at 5¾d, 5½d, 5¾d, 5d, 4½d, clothing at 4d, 3½d, 3¼d, 3¼d, combing crossbred at 5¼d, 5¾d, 5d, lambs at 4¾d, 4¾d, 4½d, 4½d.

South Australian.—GHO, sup. combing AA at 5¾d, 5¼d, 5d, combing AA at 4¼d, 4¾d, 4¼d, crossbred combing at 5d, 5¾d, 5¾d, crossbred lambs at 5d, 4¾d, 4¾d; HM over L in diamond, combing at 5½d, 5¾d, 5¼d, combing crossbred at 5¾d, 5¾d.

ENGLISH COMMERCIAL.

LONDON, Dec. 23.

Silver.

Bar silver is quoted at 2s 6d per ounce standard.

COMMERCIAL TELEGRAMS.

ALBURY, Thursday.

The local quotation for wheat to-day was 4s 2d per bushel.

THE DAIRYING INDUSTRY.

LISMORE, Thursday.

The Creamery Company's factory last week made 28 tons of butter and the output is increasing rapidly. A contract has been accepted for the erection of a creamery here.

THE PRODUCE MARKETS.—Thursday.

Trade in Sussex-street.

Business in produce to-day was uniformly quiet in all lines. Prices, however, underwent no alteration. In dairy produce a brisk business came under notice. Prime poultry met with active request, the only change in prices being a rise in turkeys. Cocks firmed considerably, and owing to an extraordinary demand for prime quality up to 25s was realised; while hens made as high as 12s per pair.

FEED-GRAINS MARKET.

The following are the quotations:—

Maize.—Prime River maize, 1s 9d, exceptional lots 1s 10½; weevily from 1s 6d to 1s 8d per bushel.

Oats.—New Zealand prime feed, 2s 5d; medium, 2s 3d to 2s 4d per bushel.

Barley.—Cape, 2s 6d to 2s 9d per bushel.

Peas.—Prime blue, 4s 9d; grey, 3s 6d per bushel.

Chickwheat.—Prime, 3s 6d to 3s 9d; screenings, 3s to 3s 3d per bushel.

BREADSTUFFS.

The Associated Millers' price, £13 per ton: Californian Starr's mills, £12 5s; Manitoba, £13; local wheat is worth 4s 11d to 5s, Associated Millers offer 4s 9d, Darling Harbour delivery.

FORAGE MARKET.

The current quotations were:—

Chaff.—Imported prime, to £4; extra green, £4 5s; medium, from £3 7s 6d to £3 12s 6d. Local: Good demand; Prime, £4 5s to £4 7s 6d; prime green, £4 10s to £4 15s, medium, £3 12s 6d to £4 2s 6d per ton.

Straw.—Local derrick-pressed, £1 17s 6d to £2 2s 6d; Tasmanian, £2 to £2 2s 6d; local bundled, £2 5s to £2 7s 6d per ton.

Hay.—Local oaten in bundles: Prime, old, £4 5s; new, £3 5s; medium, £2 10s to £3 per ton.

Lucerne.—Hunter River: Prime, £1 15s; medium qualities, £1 10s to £1 12s 6d; inferior, £1 to £1 7s 6d; Railway: Prime in small bales, £2 5s; extra prime to £2 15s; prime in large bales, £2; good medium, £1 10s to £1 15s per ton.

BRAN AND POLLARD.

Bran and pollard were in slow request at quotations. Each was quoted at 7d, per bushel.

DAIRY PRODUCE.

To-day's closing quotations were:—

Eggs.—Fair supply. Fair sale. Northern, 7d to 8d; Southern, 8d to 8½d; a few choice, 9d per dozen.

Butter.—Good supply; brisk demand. Finest creamery, 9d; factory, 7d to 7½d; dairy, 6d to 6½d; Berrima finest Camden quote best creamery 8d, factory 7½d. Berry Creamery, 8d; Laurel and Waratah Creamery, 8d per lb.

Cheese.—Prime loaf, 4¼d to 4½d; large, 3½d to 4d; Cheddar, 4½d to 4¾d per lb.

Bacon and Hams.—Fair stock; good demand. Hand-cured, prime, 6½d; second-class, 5½d to 6d; farmers' lots, 4½d; choice brands, 5d; local hams, 6d to 6½d, in cloth 7½d to 8d; New Zealand and Queensland, choice, 9d; English, 10d per lb.

Poultry.—Good sale for prime. Fowls, 2s 6d to 3s 6d, prime 4s to 5s; ducks, 2s 9d to 3s 6d, prime 4s to 4s 6d; Muscovy ducks, prime, 6s; geese, 5s to 6s; turkeys, cocks 10s to 16s, choice 18s to 25s, hens 7s, choice 8s to 12s per pair.

POTATO MARKET.

Potatoes.—Local: Early Rose to £2; Rubies and Brownells, £2 5s to £2 7s 6d. Railway: Rubies, to £2 10s; Early Rose to £2 per ton.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Honey.—Garden honey, choice, 5½ per lb.

Beeswax.—Choice, 1s to 1s 1d per lb.

Onions.—Melbourne, £4 to £4 5s per ton.

Lard.—Finely rendered, in bladders, 4½d to 5d; bulk, 4d per lb.

THE WOOD MARKET.

Fair supply; moderate demand. Firewood, good, 8s 6d to 11s; inferior, 5s to 6s 6d; bundles, good, 10s to 11s 6d; inferior, 7s to 8s 6d; billet, good, 8s to 9s 9d; inferior, 6s to 8s 6d; bakers' split, good 8s to 9s 6d, inferior 7s 6d to 8s; large dry, 6s to 7s per ton.

REDFERN SALE.

Only perishable goods were offered at auction this morning, which consisted of potatoes. Roses sold at 1s 7d to 1s 9d, and Rubies at 2s 7d per cwt.

The number of trucks manifested this morning was 40, being apportioned as follows:—Chaff, 28 trucks; hay, 2; bran, 2; potatoes, 3; straw, 1; and wheat, 92 bags.

The offerings were as follows:—

Potatoes.—From Wallace, Muswellbrook (4989) 1s 8d and 1s 7d; W. Stevens, Mulgrave, (5433) 2s 7d per cwt.

PRODUCE RETURNS.

The following is a return of the principal lines of produce received by rail at the Redfern Railway Terminus Produce Markets for the week ended 24th December, together with the figures for the corresponding period of the previous year:—

—	Hay.	Chaff.	Straw	P'toes	Bran.	Pol'd.	Maize
	Tr'ks.	Tr'ks.	Tr'ks.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
1896	34	161	4	151	53	—	—
1895	21	86	1	—	25	12	278

Wheat: 1896, 76 tons; 1895, 6 tons.

FRUIT MARKETS.

At the various metropolitan markets this morning a good supply of fruit was under offer. A fairly good demand was experienced for most lines. Choice bananas were scarce, as also were pineapples. Prices in most cases show very little change.

Current quotations are:—

Apricots.—Choice, 2s 6d to 3s per half-case; small, 1s 6d; good, 2s to 2s 6d; choice, 3s per gincase; jam lots, 1s 6d.

Bananas.—Fed available 1s 6d to 2s; choice, 2s 6d per bunch.

Oranges.—Local: Windfalls unsaleable; medium pulled oranges, 6s to 9s; prime, 10s; choice seedlings, 11s to 13s per gincase.

Apples.—Local: Small, dull of sale at 1s; cooking, good 3s to 4s; choice eating, 5s to 6s per gincase; jam lots, 1s.

Plums.—Black plums, 3s to 4s; seedlings, 1s 6d; choice, 2s to 3s 6d; Japanese, 3s to 3s; Angelina, 5s to 6s; jam lots, 1s to 1s 6d per gincase.

Cocoanuts.—Plentiful; 7s per bag.

Cherries.—Fair supply. Better sale. Local: Choice, 5s to 8s; extra prime, 7s; medium 3s to 4s; inferior, 1s 6d to 2s 6d. Melbourne: Good, 4s; choice, 5s to 6s; Hobart, Florence choice 8s to 9s per quarter-case.

Peaches.—White, 2s to 3s; red, 3s; choice, 4s per gincase; prime small red, 3s to 3s 6d; choice eating, 4s to 5s per half-case.

Gooseberries.—Local, small 1s 6d to 2s; Hobart, 3s to 3s, per quarter-case.

Pines.—Scarce. Northern, 2s to 3s; extra choice, 4s to 5s; choice Queens, to 7s per case.

Lemons.—Green, 8s to 10s; coloured, medium, 11s; choice, 16s to 16s per gincase. Italian, 10s 6d to 11s per case containing 12 dozen, 21s per case of 24 dozen.

Nectarines.—2s to 3s per half-case.

Pears.—Jargonelles, 4s to 5s; Bell, 2s 6d per gincase.

Tomatoes.—Local: Green, 1s 6d to 2s 6d; ripe, 3s 6d to 4s 6d per half-case.

Water-melons.—Queensland: 6s to 8s per dozen.

Figs.—2s per box containing five dozen.

Grapes.—Christmas small black, 3d per lb.

Raspberries.—6s per bucket.

Strawberries.—Hobart, Hautbois 5s per tray.

VEGETABLE MARKET.

A good supply of vegetables was under offer at the Belmore markets this morning. The demand was brisk, and prices in consequence ruled a trifle firmer. Peas opened at 10s, but came down to 5s, and sales were reported below that figure.

Quotations were as under:—Cabbages, 1s to 1s 6d, good 2s to 2s 6d, choice 3s to 4s; carrots, 6d to 9d; white turnips, 1s to 1s 3d; lettuce, 4d to 6d; radishes, 4d to 9d; herbs, 1s; mint, 1s; eschalots, 1s; leeks, 1s; parsley, 1s per dozen bunches; celery, 3s, prime table scarce, 5s to 6s; horse radish, 6s to 12s; asparagus, 6s to 9s; beetroot, 1s; parsnips, 9d per dozen bunches; peas up to 5s per bushel; watercress, 1s 6d to 2s per dozen bunches; spinach, 1s per dozen bunches; rhubarb, 1s to 2s per dozen bunches; kidney potatoes, 1s 3d to 1s 6d; Early Rose, 1s to 1s 3d per quarter; French beans, 1s 6d to 2s 6d per bushel; vegetable marrows, 1s 6d to 2s per dozen; tomatoes, 2s to 3s 6d per half-case; cucumbers, 4d to 1s per dozen.

BONDED STOCKS.

Stocks in bonded warehouses, Sydney, for the week ending 24th December, were as follows:—

Rum, puncheons, 1; rum, hogsheads, 371; rum, quarters, 855; rum, octaves, 66; rum, cases, 2092; brandy, hogsheads, 180; brandy, quarters, 2086; brandy, octaves, 402; brandy, cases, 20,147; whisky, hogsheads, 186; whisky, quarters, 3097; whisky, octaves, 858; whisky, cases, 53,562; white spirit, puncheons, 4; white spirit, hogsheads, 84; white spirit, quarters, 62; white spirit, octaves, 11; all other spirits, punch., 1; all other spirits, quarters, 8; all other spirits, octaves, 10; all other spirits, cases, 1041; geneva, cases, 10,726; geneva, 4; schnapps, cases, 10,128; gin, cases, 5879; liqueurs, cases, 2411; still wine, hogsheads, 54; still wine, quarters, 1763; still wine, octaves, 208; still wine, cases, 9474; sparkling wine, cases, 5770; opium, cases, 128; kerosene, cases, 29,651; beer, hogsheads, 766; beer, barrels, 801; beer, kilderkins, 8; beer, cases, 6085; sugar (in refineries included), tons, 12,978; tobacco, manufactured, quarter-tierces, 72; tobacco, manufactured, boxes, 130; tobacco, manufactured, cases, 3030; leaf tobacco, hogsheads, 524; leaf tobacco, tierces, 360; leaf tobacco, cases, 56; leaf tobacco, bales, 142;

Robert Little and Co.—Hay, Chaff, and Produce Auctions at Redfern daily. Highest prices, immediate returns.—[Advt.]

FOLEY BROS., Produce Merchants.—Consignments received daily; highest market price guaranteed, liberal advances, trial solicited.—[Advt.]

A. Phillips, Fruit Merchant, Belmore Markets. Country customers liberally dealt with. Fruit and vegetables.—[Advt.]

THE SOUTH COAST and WEST CAMDEN CO-OPERATIVE COMPANY, Limited, Sussex and Liverpool streets, Sydney. Manufacturers Choicest Creamery Butter, Live Stock and Produce Auctioneers. Sales daily at Redfern; City Live Stock Yards, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday. Warehouse, 345-349 Sussex-street.—[Advt.]

Havana Tobacco: Summer Evenings.—The real perfume of Havana in Dixson's Bonanza Cigars. 4 Bonanza Cigars in packet, 6d.—[Advt.]

HELIDON SPA WATER, a Sparkling Table Water containing Lithia. Tooth and Co., agents.—[Advt.]

cigars, cases, 798; cigarettes, cases, 26; snuff, cases, 6. Colonial spirits: Rum, Customs, hogsheads, 881; rum, Customs, quarters, 390.

HUNTER RIVER FARMERS' PRODUCE SALES.

WEST MAITLAND, Thursday.

The usual weekly sales of Hunter River farmers' produce held at West Maitland yesterday were marked by very heavy consignments in all departments. The number of buyers was also larger, owing to the Christmas demands. In the dairy section prices were slightly advanced, and ruled firmly throughout. Butter made 7d to 10d per lb.; eggs sold from 7½d to 9d; bacon, 6d; cheese, 3d to 4d; hams, 9d; and lard, 4d per lb. Honey made from 2½d to 4d per lb., and 2s 9d to 3s per tin. Live pigs, small, made 4s to 5s each. Millet brooms brought 8s per dozen. The supply of vegetables was exceedingly heavy, and sales were very brisk. Potatoes—Brownell's made 2s 1d to 3s 7d per cwt.; Early Rose, 25s to 40s per ton. Onions, best quality, 12s; other lots, from 4s 6d per cwt.; turnips, per small bag 6d to 9d, per large bag 2s 6d to 3s; cabbages, 6d to 1s 6d per dozen; peas, 1s 3d to 1s 9d; beans, 2d to 4d; butter beans, 6d per peck; chilies, 9d per bag; cucumbers, 3d to 9d; marrows, 3s per dozen. Of fruit a large assortment was forward. Oranges, 5d; lemons, 2½d to 6d per dozen; apples, 1d to 6d per dozen, 2s 6d to 5s 6d per case; nectarines, 6d to 6½d per dozen; cherries, 3s 6d per quarter-case; apricots, 1d to 5d per dozen, 1s to 2s 6d per case; peaches, 1d to 6d per dozen, 1s 6d to 2s 6d per case; passion fruit, 3d to 4d per dozen, 2s to 3s 9d per case; tomatoes, 2s 6d to 5s per case; pears, 1d to 4d per dozen; mixed fruits, 2s 6d per case. Best quality fowls made 5s 6d to 6s 1d per pair; other lots, from 2s 6d; chickens, 1s 6d to 2s 3d; ducks, 2s 6d to 5s 2d; geese, 5s 6d to 7s; turkeys, 13s to 21s; hens, 7s to 8s; pigeons, 1s per pair. Agricultural produce stocks were moderately large, and prices were firm at late rates. Hay, lucerne, 2s to 3s; oaten, 70s; wheaten, 70s; chaff, 2s 3d to 2s 3d per bag; maize, 1s 10d to 2s; oats, 2s 1d per bushel.

MAITLAND HIDE AND SKIN SALES.

WEST MAITLAND, Thursday.

The usual weekly sales of hides and skins were held at Campbell's Hill yesterday in the presence of the average attendance of buyers. Owing to the approach of the Christmas season the supply of hides was much smaller than usual, but the stocks offering were of excellent quality. Competition was animated, and for all good-conditioned lots the prices were equal to the quotations which ruled last week. Best heavy hides made from 15s 6d to 17s, well-preserved parcels realised from 12s to 13s 6d, medium consignments sold from 8s 6d to 10s, light and inferior stocks made 5s 6d to 7s 6d. Yearling skins were in small supply and found quick sale at prices ranging from 2s 6d to 4s. Calfskins were small in number, and sold from 6d to 1s 3d. Of horsehides few were forward, prices being from 3s 6d to 4s 6d. The stock of sheepskins was also very limited. The demand was active and the firm prices of last week were fully maintained for all good-quality lots. Extra heavy full-woolled skins realised from 5s to 6s 6d, prime 4s 6d to 5s 3d, medium 3s to 3s 9d, inferior 2s to 3s; pelts, best made from 1s 7d to 1s 10d, medium 1s to 1s 5d, light from 6d to 10d.

MELBOURNE FRUIT MARKET.

MELBOURNE, Thursday.

In the Queen Victoria Markets this morning fruits realised the following prices:—Green almonds, 2s 6d per half case; apples, 2s to 3s 6d per case; apricots, 1d to 3½ per lb.; cherries, 1d to 3d per lb.; currants, black 4d to 4½d per lb., red 2d to 3d per lb., white 3d per lb.; figs, 2s 6d to 3s 6d per half-case; green gooseberries, 1½d to 2d per quart; ripe gooseberries, 1½d per lb.; oranges, 9s to 13s per case; Italian lemons, 9d to 10d per dozen; mulberries, 3d to 4d per lb.; nectarines, 3s 6d per half case; plums, 3s to 4s per case.

MINING INTELLIGENCE.

Yesterday the Sydney Stock Exchange only held two meetings, and then adjourned for the Christmas and New Year holidays, to reopen on the 5th January. Only a moderate business was done. In silver B. H. North sold at a further slight advance, and North Central at a steady rate. In the closing quotations the tendency was to less firmness generally, Block 10 and Junction Consolidated, however, being exceptions. Occidental was the only local gold stock that had exchange, all others dealt in being Western Australian companies. Ivanhoe, Queen Margaret, and Brown Hill Junction had better sales, and Queensland Menzies had a partial recovery from their recent slump. Great Boulder were stronger, buyers offering £7, but there were no sellers. Coal and copper mining shares were without business. The market for mining stocks generally may be said to have closed for the year at generally fairly steady rates.

Business for the four days of the week terminating the year was of moderate extent. Tasmanian silver stocks were almost neglected, and only six Broken Hill companies had exchange. The feature of the silver market was the continued steady advance of B.H. North, which reached as high as 9s 6d. Block 10 shares were very firm; but there was no material change in others. Amongst Western Australian gold-mining shares Ivanhoe, Brown Hill Junction, Queen Margaret, Block 45, and Kalgoorlie Bank of England, all had improvement. Queensland Menzies shares were erratic, selling from 28s down to 26s, and recovering to 28s 3d, 27s 3d. There was no very material change in others. Both Victorian and Queensland companies had only limited exchange, without any noteworthy changes, except that among the latter No. 5 West Day Dawn and Brilliant Extended were firmer. In local companies the Sunlight group and Eleanora sold at stronger rates. Birthday were very firm; but others were without any noteworthy change. Wickham and Bullock Island coal, at steady rates, was the only stock that had attention. Copper shares were without any recorded transactions. The following sales indicate the changes that have taken place in values during the week:—Silver: Block 10, 69s, 69s; B. H. North, 8s 2d, 8s 3d, 8s 2d, 8s 3d, 8s 1d, 8s 2d, 8s 9d, 9s, 9s 3d, 9s 6d; B. H. Proprietary, 49s 6d; North Central, 1s 11d, 1s 10d. Overflow, contributing, 4s; Junction Consolidated, 2s; Oonah (Tas.), paid-up, 6s 9d; Hercules, 13s 9d; Mount Reid, 10s 9d. Gold: Ivanhoe (W.A.), £10 13s, £10 12s, £10 15s, £11, £11 2s 6d, £11 3s, £11 1s 6d, £11 2s, £11 5s; Brown Hill Junction, 10s 3d, 10s, 10s 3d, 11s 3d; Brown Hill Central, 2s 10d; General Gordon, paid up, 13s 9d, 13s 6d, 13s; Queen Margaret South, 9s 3d, 10s, 9s 10½d, 10s, 9s 9d, 10s 1½d, 9s 6d; Queen Margaret No. 1 South, 3s, 2s 11d, 3s, 3s, 3s 2d, 3s 1d, 2s 11d; Princess Margaret, 12s, 12s 3d, 12s 1½d, 12s; Queen Margaret, 46s, 45s 6d, 47s 6d, 47s, 47s 6d, 48s; Block 45, 29s 3d, 28s 6d, 31s, 31s 9d, 34s; Imperial Boulder, 5s 10d; No. 1 North Norseman, contributing, 4s 4d; Queensland Menzies, paid up, 28s, 28s 4d, 27s, 26s, 26s 9d, 27s, 26s, 28s, 28s 4d, 28s, 28s, 28s 3d, 27s 6d; ditto, contributing, 27s, 27s 3d, 27s; Kalgoorlie Bank of England, 52s 6d, 56s, 57s; Croesus Extended, 1s 6d; Hannan's Pride of the Valley, 9d, 9½d, 8d; Kalgoorlie Proprietary, 5s 3d; Fortune of War, 3s 2d; South Star (Vic.), 44s, 42s; Gay's Star, 3s 6d, 3s 6d; Band and Albion Consols, 15s 6d, 15s 6d; Star of the East, 39s 10½d; Mount Morgan (Q.), 69s; Victoria G. M. Association, 8s 4d, 8s 1d; No. 7 South Lady Mary, 1s 3d; No. 5 West Day Dawn, 1s 11d; Brilliant Extended, paid up, 9s 3d; Birthday (N.S.W.), paid up, 2s 7d; ditto, contributing, 1s 10d, 1s 11d; Peak Hill, paid up, 1s 9d; West Sunlight, contributing, 3s, 2s 11½d, 3s; Sunlight, 9s 3d, 9s 6d; Occidental, 2s 4½d, 2s 3d; Eleanora, 10s 3d, 1s 6d; Big Hill, 9d. Coal: Wickham and Bullock Island, 8s, 8s; ditto new, 1s 6d.

Sydney Stock Exchange.—The closing quotations were:—

	Buyer.	Seller.		Buyer.	Seller.
COAL.			Sunlight	8/9	—
Hetton	—	63/	West Sunlight, paid	8/	8/6
Stockton	2/9	3/9	Band and Albion	15/	16/6
Vale of Clwydd	8/	—	Clark's Brilliant Worcester, &c.	6/3	7/
Wallsend	£25	25/15	Victoria G.M. Association	8/	9/
Waratah	15/	20/	Block 45	30/	34/
Wickham and Bullock Island	7/9	8/	Brown Hill Junction	10/	11/6
Ditto, new	1/	—	Brown Hill No. 1 South	—	1/2
Ditto Preferential (£1 paid)	20/6	—	Charles Dickens	11/9	13/
TIN.			Croesus	—	9/
Elsmore Valley	—	5/6	Ditto Extend.	1/3	1/9
COPPER.			Golden Casket, con.	1/6	1/10
Great Cobar	37/6	—	Great Boulder	£7	—
Girilambone	—	2/	Hannan's Eureka	9½d	1/3
SILVER.			Hannan's Pride of the Valley	6d	8d
British Brok'n Hill	12/	—	Ivanhoe	11 4	11 10
Broken Hill Proprietary	49/	50/	Kalgoorlie Proprietary	5/3	5/4½
Block 10	70/	—	Lady Sherry	4/	5/
Junction Consolidated	2/	2/1	Ditto, con.	2/2	—
B.H. North	8/9	9/6	M'Clay's Welcome, con.	9d	—
North Central	—	1/10	Moon's	2/3	—
Overflow	—	9/	Princess Margaret	11/6	12/9
Ditto, con.	—	4/	Queensland Menzies	27/6	28/
Comet	6/	—	Ditto, con.	26/	27/
Curtin and Davis	9/10	10/6	Queen Margaret	46/9	47/
Ditto No. 1 con.	10d	1/3	Ditto South	—	10/6
Central Lyell	—	1/7	Queen Margaret No. 1 South	—	3/1
Tasman Lyell	5/6	—	Slug Hill Consols, con.	8d	1/
GOLD.					
Birthday	2/7	—			
Ditto, con.	1/10	—			
Cobar Mining	2/3	2/6			
Great Northern, con.	—	2/			
New Bushman's	—	12/			
Occidental	2/2	2/4			

The following sales were reported:—Morning—Silver: North Central, 1s 10d. Gold: Occidental, 2s 3d; Fortune of War, 3s 2d; Princess Margaret, 12s; Queensland Menzies, paid up, 28s. Noon—Silver: B. H. North, 9s 6d. Gold: Brown Hill Junction, 11s 3d; Hannan's Pride of the Valley, 8d; Ivanhoe, £11 5s; Queensland Menzies, paid up, 28s 3d; Queen Margaret, 47s 6d, 47s.

The following sales were reported after high 'Change:—Coal: Wickham and Bullock Island, 8s. Silver: Oonah, paid up, 6s 9d; Hercules, 13s 9d; Mount Reid, 10s 9d. Gold: Queen Margaret South, 9s 6d; Queensland Menzies, paid up, 27s 6d; Queen Margaret, 47s 6d, 48s; Birthday, contributing, 1s 11d; Queen Margaret No. 1 South, 2s 11d.

After its noon meeting yesterday the Sydney Stock Exchange closed for the holidays, and will re-open on Tuesday, the 5th January. The vestibule of the Exchange will remain closed until the morning of Monday, 4th January.

The legal manager of the Rainbow and Mountain Maid Extension Gold-mining Company, No Liability, informs us that the Clyde Chlorination Works treated two separate lots of stone of 1 ton each, with the following results:—No. 1, 1oz. 8dwt.; No. 2, 2oz. 16½dwt. smelted gold, exclusive of returns to be received from concentrates.

In connection with the first dividend declared by the Broken Hill South Silver-mining Company, shareholders are notified by advertisement in another column that scrip for transfer must be lodged at the Melbourne office of the company not later than the 6th proximo.

DIAMOND MINING AT BOGGY CAMP.

INVERELL, Thursday.

At the Star of the South mine, Boggy Camp, development work has been proceeding, and four loads of dirt have been washed and panned out for 155 carats. Of these 150 were sold; eight stones weighing 5 carats were retained. At Block No. 46 property, the Amalgamated Block holders have good results from their prospecting. Good wash has been struck, and diamond tourmaline found. Work at most mines in the district has been suspended for the Christmas holidays.

BROKEN HILL, Thursday.

Although the country rock in the Junction North shaft is somewhat harder good sinking has been done, the bottom to-day measuring 64ft. below the 640ft. level. Water here is making at the rate of about 200 gallons each shift. The drive at the 570ft. level towards the North mine boundary is making satisfactory headway, a splendid face of compact and friable sulphide being carried, the average assay being 24oz. silver, 37 per cent. of lead. The bearing of the lode at this point has a tendency still more to the eastward. The opening sets of the sill floor at the 610ft. level continue to be carried northward, the end of the face measuring 115ft. from the west crosscut, a large body almost entirely of friable ore being opened out here. The footwall side is looking specially strong. Stoping is proceeding on the second, third, and fourth floors at the back of this level, large quantities of high-grade sulphides being mined, the shipping average being 38oz. silver and 38 per cent. of lead. The ground on the fifth floor is being cut out for opening sets, the faces on each floor looking exceedingly well, the material exposed having the appearance of concentrates. Shipments last week comprised 700 tons of high-grade sulphides to Port Pirie, and 30 tons of second quality sulphides to Block 14 locally. The Junction mill, running 48 hours short time last week, treated 338 tons crudes, yielding 82 tons of concentrates, and 44 tons slimes. The despatches for the week totalled 1183 tons, including 863 tons first-class sulphides. The chief point of interest in the exploratory work is centred in Browne's crosscut at the 675ft. level, where altogether 290ft. have been driven from the shaft. The face continues tough and dry, with no indication yet of the western lode. M'Intyre's development stopes at the 675ft. level are looking wonderfully well everywhere. The uprise on the north section of these stopes is now connected with intermediate workings, thus giving excellent ventilation and outlet for the milling ore which accumulated in large quantity. The intermediate stopes are looking well, especially south, where large breasts of friable ore are exposed. Good milling ore continues to be mined at the various points and levels. The surface machinery is running satisfactorily. The mill will be shut down to allow connections to be made with the new plant. It is anticipated that this work will take quite three weeks.

HARDEN, Thursday.

All the principal mines have closed down for the holidays.

HILLGROVE, Thursday.

To-day all the mines came to a full stop. Most of them will remain idle until next Monday week. The West Sunlight battery will resume crushing next Monday, and clean up at the end of the year. It will be Monday, the 4th January, before they get a proper start again. On that date it is expected that all the mines and batteries will again be in full swing. The Baker's Creek and Eleanora boilers will receive a thorough overhaul during the holidays, but all the machinery in both mines being in excellent order there will not be any other delay. Baker's Creek battery cleaned up this afternoon, the yield being 396oz. 12dwt. of smelted gold from 498 tons of stone—403 tons being from Smith's reef and 95 from the big reef. Tearle and M'Loughlan put through another ton of specimens from the Baker's Creek Consols ground, at the Baker's Creek North battery, for a yield of 15oz. 18dwt. of smelted gold. The Hillgrove Crushing Company's battery treated 7 tons of quartz this week for Cross and party from the leading stope at the back of No. 1 tunnel, at the Earl of Hopetoun mine, for a yield of 20z. 14dwt. smelted gold. Pinto, tributing at Baker's Creek Gold-mining Company, had 6 tons of stone crushed at the North Battery this week for a yield of 56oz. 4dwt. of smelted gold. J. Simpson, also tributing at Baker's Creek, had 1 ton of specimens crushed for a yield of 5oz. 16dwt. of smelted gold. Townsend and party, tributing at Baker's Creek Consols tips, crushed 3 tons of picked stone at Baker's Creek North battery this week for a yield of 15oz. 14dwt. of smelted gold; and Thomas Smith at the same battery crushed half a ton for a yield of 3oz. 15dwt. of smelted gold. Fuller and party crushed 2½ tons of stone from the winze they are sinking on the new reef abreast of No. 2 tunnel in the Earl of Hopetoun mine at the Hillgrove Crushing Company's battery this week, cleaning up for 3oz. 9½dwt. of smelted gold. They also got 4oz. 12dwt. of smelted gold by the dolly from about 1cwt. of stone taken from the same reef. The Golden Gate battery has cleaned up, some very nice stone in the hopper being shut out. About 20 tons were put through, and yielded 31oz. 10dwt. of retorted gold. The stone came from the main reef at the back of the winze. Madrick Brothers, who have been prospecting for the New England Gold-mining and Prospecting Syndicate, are well pleased with the country about Shearn's Creek for prospecting.

KALGOORLIE, Wednesday.

The Great Boulder crushing was 712 tons of stone for 2147oz. of gold, an average of slightly over 3oz. per ton. Ten additional head of stampers have just been completed at the mine.

Professor Holtze, Norwegian mineralogist, spent all day at the Boulder Main Reef and concurs with Professor Maryanski as to the great value of the telluride discoveries. He thinks that this mineral will be found in all the sulphide ores on the field. He estimates that the parcel of 20 tons of average telluride stone being sent to the Dry Creek works will average 30oz. of gold per ton. The new manager of the North Boulder has taken charge of the mine, which is opening splendidly. Since the exemptions started a good deal of attention has been given to dry-blowing around Kalgoorlie, and two pieces containing 10oz. and 14oz. of gold respectively, have been picked up, while it is estimated that on an average all the men are winning 1oz. of gold weekly. A small rush took place last week to Ballingundi, where over 100oz. of gold were obtained close to the township.

MELBOURNE, Thursday.

The Stock Exchange closed this afternoon for the holidays. Sales: Outtrim and Howitt, coal, 7s 9d; North Broken Hill, 9s, 9s 4d; Central Mount Lyell, 1s 3d; Curtin Davis, 10s; North Mount Lyell, 23s 6d; South-west Curtin Davis, 2s 5d, 2s 4d; Tasman Lyell, 6s 3d; Associated Gold Mines, 49s 6d, 50s; Brown Hill Junction, 11s; Great South Long Tunnel, 12s; Ivanhoe, £11 4s, £11 6s; Long Tunnel Extended, £25 10s; North Long Tunnel, 33s 6d; Queen Margaret, 46s; ditto South, 10s 3d; South Star, Ballarat, 46s; Specimen Hill, 7s 2d, 7s 6d; Wahgunyah, 1s 3d.

MOLONG, Monday.

Mining operations continue brisk at Stuart-town, and the prospects of the place for the new year look bright indeed. The following mines are in full swing there:—The Golden Gully, Canadian, Mascotte, Briton, Saxon, Post Office, Trickett, Poor Man's, Perseverance, Madman's, Lady Hampden, Hanlan's Secret, and others. The Canadian has just had a crushing at Scott's battery. Forty-one tons of stone were put through for a payable yield. The Post Office mine has cut some good stone at the 200ft. level, and has a reef over 2ft. through, which is expected to yield between 2oz. and 3oz. to the ton. The reef has been followed along for nearly 100ft., and good stone obtained. At the Madman's stone is still being raised from a 2ft. reef that carries heavy gold, but associated with mineral. Boehme Brothers, adjoining this property, are also raising nice ore. The Mascotte is reported to have cut some very rich stone in the main drive. Good ore is also being raised at the Trickett mine, which property is likely to be shortly disposed of to an English company. Things promise to be lively at the Golden Gully after the new year, Mr. Pearse, the manager, intending to put on about 30 more men. News from Cargo states that mining operations have received a great impetus lately, and the field promises at an early date to resume its old form. Mr. Dunn, proprietor of the Ironclad mine, is about to erect a waterjacket furnace and other machinery. At the present time the main shaft is being baled out, and as soon as this work shall have been completed miners will start to work the deeper levels. It is reported that a sample of ore has been obtained from the 282ft. level which, it is thought, will yield 5oz. of gold per ton, besides copper. As there is a large body of ore in this mine it is thought that under the smelting process it will pay well. All through the Cargo district prospecting parties are working with more or less gratifying results.

PAMBULA, Wednesday.

The Mount Gahan Company has placed in the local bank a cake of smelted gold weighing 71oz., obtained from the cyanide treatment of slimes. The clean-up will not be completed until after the holidays. This company has just made its sixth call of 3d per share. Haugh's mill is idle from want of water.

A small trial parcel of 2½ tons of ore from Beck and Bushell's claim, Tingey's Plains, near Rocky Hall, was put through at the Mount Gahan battery, and yielded 3oz. of smelted gold. This is the first crushing from this locality. The reef is honeycombed quartz, and seems to be well defined between walls, the width varying from 16in. to 3ft. Most of the Pambula and several Wolumla mines are closing down for the holidays.

PERTH, Wednesday.

To-day's sales were:—Boulder North Extended, 3s 1d; Fraser's South, contributing, 9d; Hannan's Ben Lomond, 1s; Lady Sherry, contributing, 2s 6d; Menzies' Kensington, contributing, 3s 1½d; North Boulder, 23s 6d; Queen Margaret South, 9s 6d.

A Marchison telegram states that there is a rising market for Fortune of War shares, and a large parcel changed hands at Cue. Taylor's Lady Eva mine prospectors struck another rich chute of gold at a depth of 40ft., making three shoots discovered within a short time. In stone from the chute the gold is just as heavy as in the original sensational specimens. Some broken into 2½oz. pieces contained fully 2oz. of gold each.

ULMARRA, Tuesday.

A miner named T. Smith has picked up a nugget of gold in Solferino Creek weighing 5oz. 12dwt. Forty tons of stone have been crushed at Harbour's battery, Bucca Creek, for a yield of 2oz. 3dwt. of gold per ton.

WEST WYALONG, Thursday.

Harry's Find tributors have completed a crushing of 118 tons of stone at Nicholas and Reymond's battery for a return of 215oz. 8dwt. of smelted gold, in addition to a large proportion of concentrates; and Conway and party, at the Thistle and Shamrock mine, are operating on a 36in. reef carrying 75 per cent. of valuable mineral. Twenty tons are being bagged for treatment at Footscray.

Sixty tons of stone from the Welcome Stranger crushed at West's battery yesterday returned 86oz. 4dwt. of smelted gold. An assay of the concentrates from the Picanniny mine at Yalgogrin gives the extraordinary return of 213oz. 19dwt. of gold per ton. The Rose of England stone, now crushing at Nicholas and Reymond's battery, is likely to be interrupted by scarcity of water.

MANAGERS' REPORTS.

Broken Hill Bonanza Silver Mines Company, No Liability, December 19.—Campbell's shaft, 200ft. level: East crosscut, total 13ft.; ground quartz and hard schist.

Golden Ridge Mining Company (Adelaide Company), fortnight ending November 28.—Gurr's tunnel shaft: Total from brace 47ft., depth from outcrop 112ft.; band of quartzite has underlay east, and dips south. Bottom of shaft is changing, kaolin, schist, and ironstone being met with.

Hands Across the Sea South, Kunanalling, W.A., fortnight ending December 5.—Crosscut at 90ft. level, total from shaft 56ft. Formation of quartzite and hornblende has been met with; gone through this 5ft., where it has given place to a big body of decomposed quartz. Have very little doubt we are approaching the reef. Both the formation and quartz carry fair gold, estimated about 5oz. per ton.

King Hercules Copper Silver-mining Company, No Liability (Tas.).—Cut across formation deepened to fissure vein, which now consists of pug and brown oxide of iron. Pyrites still very dense at bottom of cut. Have seen more copper in formation during week than ever before. There are occasional flat leaders of hard grey quartz faced with galena.

North Broken Hill Silver-mining Company, Limited, No Liability, week ending December 19.—700ft. crosscut: Total 118ft. from main shaft in schistose rock of a favourable appearance. 400ft. level: Winze 34ft. in lode material, felspar, and sulphides. 500ft. level: Winze 60ft. in good milling ore, no hanging-wall. Junction North—570ft. level: Drive 22ft. this company; full face of sulphides, no wall, good milling ore. Mined and raised 513 tons crude ore. Mill running full time, two shifts, less one hour for adjustments, treating 573 tons crude ore, producing 150 tons concentrates assaying 68 per cent. lead, 30oz. silver, 6 per cent. zinc. 400 tons 3cwt. despatched to Port Adelaide. Have orders to continue forwarding.

The British Broken Hill Proprietary Company, Limited, mill returns, fortnight ending December 16.—The mill treated 4592 tons of carbonate and sulphide ores, producing 1351 tons of concentrates, containing 845 tons of lead and 19,103oz. of silver.

The Broken Hill Junction North Silver-mining Company, Limited, week ending December 19.—Main shaft: The shaft has reached 58ft. in all from brace (640ft.). Ground still favourable, and water slightly increasing, but not sufficient to interfere to any extent. 640ft. level: The sill floor sets extended north a further distance of 12ft.; the face is still in first grade ore, lode 25ft. wide. Stoping being carried on from the sill to the fourth floor, showing bold faces of ore on all sides. 570ft. level north: Drive, 100ft. in all from crosscut. The lode in the face continues to look well, carrying friable ore about half way up the drive. The width of the lode has not yet been determined, no walls showing on either side. This is a very important development, being entirely in new ground. Surface embankment for new siding is well in hand. Old furnaces and sheds being removed for foundations of new plant. Ore despatched for the week: To G. Wills and Co., Port Pirie, 660 tons first grade; 50 tons second grade to Block 14 locally. Extra to this there are 16 trucks first grade filled on the line, equal to, say, 96 tons, and four trucks second grade, say 24 tons. Total for week, 831 tons.

The Brilliant Extended Gold-mining Company, Limited, C.T., fortnight ending December 14.—No. 3 western level: Total, 30ft.; will average a reef 4ft. of heavy mineral stone. The eastern stope on the footwall will average 3ft. of stone. No. 2 western drive: Total, 241ft. There is very little stone showing in the face, but has the appearance of making again on the hanging wall. The leading stope on the good stone has widened out from 3ft. to 6ft. of heavy mineral stone. No. 1 crosscut: Total, 5ft.; in a hard bar of grey granite. Raised for fortnight, 590 trucks of quartz.

The South Burrangong Gold-mining Company, No Liability, week ending December 19.—Blocking out continued, and 25 fathoms taken out for yield of 67oz. 12dwt. gold. Shall continue drive east from No. 1 north-west drive to open up ground recently bored.

The Lady Brassey and Outward Bound Silver Mines Company, No Liability, December 23.—Haled 12ft., and hauled 5ft. mullock; machinery working well.

The Baker's Creek Gold-mining Company, N.L., Hillgrove, week ended December 12.—On Smith's reef, No. 11 level has reached 150ft. south of No. 1 winze, the reef in the hanging wall; crosscutting to find it on a leader from 4in. to 5in. wide, carrying fair gold. This leader is running at right angles to the course of Smith's reef. No. 9 level, north of No. 1 winze, total 42ft.; the face shows a small reef of poor quality. The 225ft. level, total 100ft.; reef in face 10in. wide, carries good gold. Winze from 125ft. level to 225ft. level, total 21½ft.; the bottom shows a 4in. reef carrying good gold. The No. 2 winze from No. 10 to No. 11 level is down 11ft.; reef in the bottom carries good gold, and is about 4in. wide. On the Big Reef No. 6 level has reached 26½ft.; the reef in the face, 3in. wide, carries a little gold. The 225ft. level, total 67½ft.; the face carries 4in. of fairly good stone. The stopes throughout the mine are yielding medium quality stone.

The Broken Hill Ore Recovery Company, No Liability, December 20.—Vertical shaft: Total from surface, 116½ft. North shaft: South drive, total from shaft, 13ft.; seam of ore improving. North drive, total from shaft, 9ft.; ore not improving. Am sending ore at grass to Block 14 for treatment.

The Fortune of War Gold-mining Company, No Liability, Coolgardie, December 21.—Crosscut driven 12ft. for week, total 39ft. Country hard.

The Eleanora G. and A. M. Company, N. L., Hillgrove, fortnight ended 12th December.—The depth of the south shaft is 46ft. below No. 3 level, still following down the lode, which is about 1ft. wide, and carries gold. No. 3 level: Lode in the south drive is fully 4ft. wide and carries good gold. The two drives north on the western and eastern portions of the lode being continued, the ore in each from 15in. to 18in. wide, carrying a little gold. Now stoping north and south of shaft in this level and producing average grade ore. No. 2 level: The winze in section 10 is down 76ft. in splendid ore, lode being fully 5ft. wide. The winze in section 16 has communicated with No. 3 level and effected good ventilation, facilitating stoping operations. Main shaft: No change to report.

DIVIDENDS.

The following dividends have been declared, and are payable on the dates specified:—

Ironbark, December 28 (final), 7½d.
South Star, Sebastopol, December 29, 6d.
Laidler's Freehold, December 30, 6d.
Victoria G.M. Association, C.T., December 31, 6d.
New Mount Hope Copper M. Co., December 31, 6d.
B.H. Junction North, January 13, 6d.
Eleanora G. and A. M. Company, Hillgrove, January 20, 6d.
B.H. Proprietary Block 10 Company, January 20, 1s.
B. H. South S. M. Co., January 22, 6d.
B.H. Junction S. M. Company, January 28, 1s.

YIELDS.

GOLD.

Cross and party, Hillgrove, 7 tons, 20oz. 14dwt.
Fuller and party, Hillgrove, 1 ton 11cwt., 8oz. 1dwt. 12gr.
Harry's Find Tributers, Wyalong, 118 tons, 218oz. 8dwt.
Pinto, Hillgrove, 6 tons, 56oz. 4dwt.
J. Simpson, Hillgrove, 1 ton specimens, 5oz. 16dwt.
T. Smith, Hillgrove, ½ ton, 3oz. 15dwt.
Star of the East, Ballarat, 98oz.
The Baker's Creek Company, Hillgrove, 498 tons, 396oz. 12dwt.
Tearle M'Loughlan, Hillgrove, 1 ton specimens, 15oz. 18dwt.
Townsend and party, Hillgrove, 3 tons, 15oz. 14dwt.
The Golden Gate, Hillgrove, 20 tons, 31oz. 10dwt.
The Araluen G. Sluicing Company (for December 22) 30oz. 18dwt. 14gr.
The South Burrangong G. M. Company, 67oz. 12dwt.
The Cobar Great Western G. M. Company, 101 tons, 44oz.

SILVER.

The British B.H. Proprietary Company, Limited, 19,103oz.

CRIME IN LONDON DECREASING.

FACTS AND FIGURES FROM THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER'S REPORT.

The report of the English Chief Commissioner on the Police of the metropolis for the year 1895 has just been issued. With regard to the strength of the police, it states that on 31st December, 1895, there were in the force 32 superintendents, 592 inspectors, 1870 sergeants, and 12,777 constables; total, 15,271, being a decrease of five inspectors, and an increase of one superintendent, 36 sergeants, and 23 constables since 31st December, 1894. Of these, four superintendents, 54 inspectors, 206 sergeants, and 1482 constables were employed on special duties for various Government departments, including special protection posts at public offices and buildings, dockyards, and military stations, and by public companies and private individuals. The report adds (says a London paper) that the services of men thus employed were paid for to the Receiver of the Metropolitan Police District by the departments to which the services were rendered. The number of police available for service in the metropolis, exclusive of those specially employed and whose services were paid for, was 28 superintendents, 538 inspectors, 1664 sergeants, and 11,292 constables; total, 13,525. Criminal offences in London are, says the report, decreasing. There were nearly a thousand fewer cases last year than in the year before. The professional burglar and housebreaker is released oftener now under the short sentence system, but the Commissioner does not attribute the burglary and housebreaking so much to this fact as to the carelessness of the public themselves. Half the houses broken into (752 out of 1501) in 1895 were left with no one in charge, and locks are often defective. The number of burglaries was 514. The Bertillon system of identification is now employed in London. The vehicles licensed in 1895 were as follows:—7425 two-wheeled hackney carriages, 3536 four-wheelers, 2714 omnibuses, 1099 tramway cars, total, 14,774. This shows an increase over 1894 of every kind of vehicle excepting the four-wheelers. The "growler" is declining, as cars and omnibuses increase, but the hansom increased last year by 157. There are 27,541 licensed drivers and conductors in London. A considerable increase in the business of the Lost Property Office is again reported, the deposits being very nearly 33,000, of which above 17,000 were restored to the owners, the remainder being returned to the drivers and conductors who found them. Among the articles deposited was a banker's bag, containing £700 in gold, and on the restoration of which an award of £75 was paid. Among the miscellaneous class was a bantam cock, a cat, a canary in a cage, an astronomical telescope, cylinders of compressed gas, dogs, electric batteries, a horse's brain in spirits, a sewing machine on stand, a suit of chain mail.

NEW LONDON CEMETERY.

PROTEST BY THE HAMPSTEAD VESTRY.

At a meeting of the Hampstead Vestry held on 22nd October, Mr. E. S. Payne, chairman of the open spaces committee, moved,—"That this vestry views with regret and alarm the proposed acquisition of land from the Eton College Estate at North-end, Hampstead-heath, for the purpose of a cemetery, and that the vestry clerk be instructed to prepare a petition to the Home Secretary, praying him to withhold his consent from such proposal." He said the proposal of the Abney Park Cemetery Company to lay out 40 acres of land adjoining Hampstead-heath was meeting with great opposition, not only from the inhabitants of Hampstead, but from those of outlying districts. The Hendon District Council had emphatically decided to oppose the company's application, as the chief part of the land was in their district. Eventually the resolution was carried, with the following addition, "Involving, as it does, a menace to the health not only of Hampstead, but of the whole of London."

BRANCH LINES AND EXCURSIONS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD.

Sir,—May I have a small space in your columns to mention a grievance felt by the residents in the South-Western districts.

We frequently see "special cheap excursion trains" advertised for those on the main lines, but the branch lines are seldom included. Why is this? It is true last summer when the heat registered 120° in the shade and the death rate rose alarmingly the Commissioners did grant weekly cheap excursion trains available for a month. Happily matters are not so bad now, but can they not include the branch lines in the monthly excursions, doubling the extension? Let them spend a few days on these (now) and wastes, where we live without fruit, vegetables, or even a fair supply of good water, battling daily with drought, dust, and rabbit plague, and they will remember the wives and little ones of those who came to subdue the wilderness, whose conditions of life are so hard, and whose lessened means only make them ask the concessions granted to others whose necessities are not nearly so great. I am, &c.,

SYMPATHY.

BRITISH COLUMBIA MINING.

THE KOOTENAY OUTPUT.

The total value of ore shipped from the Kootenay during the year (says the *Canadian Gazette* of 15th October) amounts to 2,280,132dol. These figures are obtained from the Custom-house at Nelson and from data furnished by the Columbia and Kootenay Steam Navigation Company.

The estimated production of the Kootenay for this year was, earlier in the year, from 5,000,000dol. to 10,000,000dol., but it now looks as though it would not exceed 4,000,000dol., basing the total production on the amount already shipped out, which is, from the best sources of information, still less than 3,000,000dol. For next year, however, it is difficult to estimate what will be done. The immense amount of machinery now at work in the Rossland district, and other plants which are to be installed, make it impossible to do any accurate estimate.

The Prince of Wales Group, on Lookout Mountain, Trail, has, says the Vancouver *World*, been sold to an English syndicate for 50,000dol. cash, which has already been paid, and transfer made. The claims consist of the Prince of Wales, E. V. Debs, and Emma B. The Prince of Wales has the Sovereign lead, which is regarded as one of the richest in the south belt.

The Heather Bell Group, on Murphy Creek, has been bonded to an Eastern Canadian syndicate for 25,000dol. This group consists of four claims, the Heather Bell, Livingstone, Gladstone, and Ramping Lion. At 15ft. the shaft was in solid ore, assaying as high as 52dol. in gold.

There can be but little doubt (says a correspondent of the *World*) as to the future of Rossland and Trail Creek generally. English capitalists and the agents of English capital are pouring into that section in greater number every day, and the most encouraging thing about it is that they nearly all invest before leaving. "One year ago the camp was strictly American, while to-day it is evenly divided between English and Americans, and the chances are that before another year the Englishmen will predominate. An immense amount of English capital has been invested in the camp during the past few months, but it is a drop in the bucket to what is coming."

A correspondent says of Trail, British Columbia: "The town of Trail has sprung up as if by magic, and has to-day 2000 inhabitants. It is situated on the west bank of the Columbia River, eight miles north of the boundary line, overshadowed by Lookout Mountain, in the Trail Creek district. There never has been a town in British Columbia that has made such rapid growth. Its growth dates practically from a year ago, for at that time it was a mere hamlet, with but one hotel and a post-office. To-day it has 20 hotels and restaurants—namely, the Trail House, Crown Point Maiden, St. Elmo, Windsor, Hotel Keyser, Wellington House, Arlington Hotel, Hotel Spokane, Pacific Hotel, Ross and Callihan's Hotel, Home Hotel, Leland House, White's Hotel, and others. In addition to these indications of prosperity, there are nine general merchandise stores, two butcher's shops, two wholesale liquor establishments, two livery stables, and other business houses. There are several large mining brokerage and real estate offices in town also. Trail has one of the largest machine shops in the North-west, and a large foundry is now under construction.

About 1000 men are employed in mining in mines adjacent to Trail, but with the rapid mining development it is expected that this number will shortly be largely increased. It is confidently predicted that the season of 1898 will see Trail a city of 10,000 inhabitants. People are now coming in at the rate of 150 a day. As fast as they arrive the great majority of them scatter to the adjacent camps.

Mr. F. Aug. Heinz, the proprietor of the smelter at Rossland, and of the narrow-gauge railway from Rossland to Trail, has returned to Rossland after a trip to Europe. He holds the charter for a railway line from Rossland west to Penticton to open up the Boundary Creek district, and ultimately to open up direct communication with Vancouver. In an interview published in the *Rosslander* Mr. Heinz stated that nothing would be done in the way of railway construction until next spring. Seeing the state of the world's money markets, it was not expected that the plans for more railway building could be matured until after November.

The Canadian Pacific Railway Company now has a through telegraph line to Rossland, and has lowered all tariffs to British Columbia points by 25 cents and to Eastern Canada by 50 cents. The rate from Rossland to Kootenay points will be 25 cents for 10 words. The line from Rossland to Revelstoke is to be rebuilt in a more substantial manner. The Spokane Northern Railway has pushed its telegraph line into Rossland, and gives the town direct communication with Spokane, the rate being 65 cents for ten words.

Great interest and no little local excitement were aroused at Vancouver early in October by the reported richness of the Golden Coach mine in the Lillooet district. Its chief owners, who are well-known Vancouver men, state that a rich gold-bearing ledge of seven feet width, running in 2000 feet, has now been fully traced, whilst many tests made of its ore estimate it as running no less than 500 dols. to the ton. They estimate its gold-bearing capacity at 100,000,000 dols.

Lord Lyveden, who in his seventy-seventh year has taken unto himself, *en secondes noces*, a young bride of 17, was at one time in the diplomatic service, and afterwards acted as private secretary to his father, the first baron, during the latter's term of office as Secretary for War, and later as President of the Board of Control. He twice endeavoured, as a Liberal, but unsuccessfully, to enter the House of Commons for Northamptonshire. These Vernons are really a branch of the great Smith family, the first baron having taken the present surname in lieu of his patronymic on being created a peer.

COUGHS, COLDS on the CHEST, BRONCHITIS, and ASTHMA rapidly cured by HEARNE'S BRONCHITIS CURE.

Those who have taken this medicine are amazed at its wonderful influence. Sufferers from any form of bronchitis, distressing cough, difficulty of breathing, hoarseness, pains or soreness in the chest, experience delightful and immediate relief, and to those who are subject to colds on the chest it is invaluable, as it effects a complete cure. It is most comforting in allaying tickling and irritation in the throat, and giving strength to the voice, and it never allows a cough or asthma to become chronic. No house should be without it, as, taken at the beginning, a dose is generally sufficient, and a complete cure is certain.

Prepared only and sold wholesale and retail by the proprietor, W. G. HEARNE, CHEMIST, GEELONG, VICTORIA. Small size 2s 6d, large 4s 6d.

Sold by chemists and medical vendors. Forwarded by post to any address when not obtainable locally.

A WONDERFUL MEDICINE.

BEECHAM'S PILLS

are universally admitted to be worth a Guinea a Box for Bilious and Nervous Disorders, such as Wind and Pain in the Stomach, Sick Headache, Giddiness, Fullness and Swelling after Meals, Dizziness and Drowsiness, Cold Chills, Flushings of Heat, Loss of Appetite, Shortness of Breath, Costiveness, Scurvy and Blotches on the Skin, Disturbed Sleep, Frightful Dreams, and all Nervous and Trembling Sensations, &c. Every sufferer is earnestly invited to try one box of these Pills, and they will be acknowledged to be

WORTH A GUINEA A BOX.

For Females of all ages these Pills are invaluable, as a few doses of them carry off all humours and bring about all that is required. No female should be without them. There is no medicine to be found equal to Beecham's Pills for removing any obstruction or irregularity of the system.

For Weak Stomach, Impaired Digestion, and all Disorders of the Liver they act like magic, and a few doses will be found to work wonders on the most important organs in the human machine. They strengthen the whole muscular system, restore the long-lost complexion, bring back the keen edge of appetite, and arouse into action with the rosebud of health the whole physical energy of the human frame, and one of the best guarantees to the nervous and debilitated is, BEECHAM'S PILLS have the Largest Sale of any Patent Medicine in the World. Prepared only by the Proprietor, THOMAS BEECHAM, St. Helen's, Lancashire, England, and sold everywhere in boxes 9½d, 1s 1½d, and 2s 9d each.

For Sale.

IRON SAFES, Tann and other makers, perfect gifts, must make room. N. Herman, 9 Wynyard-st.

BREECH-LOADING GUNS, 12-bore, top action, latest improvements, 55s, worth £10. Herman, 9 Wynyard-st.

GENT.'S Gold Double ALBERTS for the price of the gold, latest designs. N. Herman, 9 Wynyard-st.

GENT.'S WATCHES and Chains, perfect timekeepers, 7s 6d, sterling silver 15s 6d. N. Herman, 9 Wynyard-st.

MISFIT SUITS, by the best tailors in Melbourne, 35s, worth £3 5s. N. Herman, 9 Wynyard-st.

GENT.'S Waterproof COAT, Capes and Velvet Collars, sewn throughout, 17s 6d, worth 60s. 9 Wynyard-st.

BRUSSELS CARPETS, elegant designs, 1s 9d yard, making and laying free. N. Herman, 9 Wynyard-st.

EIGHT-DAY Striking CLOCKS, elegant fronts, Waterbury, 12s 6d, elsewhere 25s. Herman, 9 Wynyard-st.

BOOTS and SHOES by the single pair cheaper than wholesale. The Misfit Parlour, 9 Wynyard-st.

ORDER-MADE SUITS, leave your measure, £2, no better for £5 elsewhere. N. Herman, 9 Wynyard-st.

LADIES' Sunshades and Umbrellas for Gentlemen almost given away. The Misfit Parlour, 9 Wynyard-st.

XMAS PRESENTS. BEALE'S PATENT MACHINES.

TORPEDO Sewing Machines, Marvels of the Age. BEALE'S, Limited.

OUR Machines will change from Lock to Chain Stitch instantaneously. BEALE'S, Limited.

XMAS GIFTS.—Machines, £3; Pianos, £10. BEALE'S, Limited.

A SUPERIOR new HEARSE for Sale. Photos on application. Weeks, undertaker, Newtown. Tel., No. 9N.

NEWLY-CALVED COWS, with Calves, early inspection; or COWS on week's trial; private families and shippers supplied; also, Jerseys and Ayrshires. Tel. 13 Waverley. F. A. MACKENZIE, Bondi.

ENGRAVINGS, Remarque Artists' Proofs, proofs before letters, at great reductions. 128 Clarence-st.

EMPTY Piano CASES for SALE. Apply Storeman, W. H. Paling and Co., Music Warehouse, George-st.

TAILINGS.—For SALE, 30,000 tons, average 3 to 6 dwts.; facilities for sampling. M. N., Herald.

TANKS.—Large square iron Water Tanks, 25s; large round, 15s. Pedemont, near station, Ashfield.

VISITORS to Sydney can pay expenses by purchasing Ironmongery at Macintosh and Sons', 307 Pitt-st.

TICKETS, Melbourne, &c.—Firkin's Agency, 135 King-st., closed till Mon. Res. address, 175 Windsor-st.

Businesses for Sale.

CITY Business, profitable and easily worked, for SALE, price £100. Particulars Local, Herald Office.

Building Materials.

HOLDSHIP and CO., Limited, Timber Merchants, Pyrmont, to make room for large shipments to arrive, are Selling extra cheap Baltic, Redwood, Oregon, Hardwood, Doors, &c.

TO arrive large shipments Baltic, Oregon, Redwood, &c., sell ch, make room. Holdship and Co., Ltd., Pyrmont.

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Funerals.

WATSON.—The FUNERAL of the late Mr. ROBERT WATSON (late guard of funeral train) will leave his late residence, Unwin Bridge-road and Foreman-street, St. Peters, THIS AFTERNOON, at a quarter past 1 o'clock, for Newtown. ERNEST ANDREWS and CO., Funeral Directors, 246 King-street, Newtown. Telephone, 75N.

THE FRIENDS of Mr. R. WATSON, Jun., are respectfully invited to attend the Funeral of his FATHER, Mr. R. Watson (railway employee); to move from Foreman-street, Marrickville, at 1.15, TO-DAY, to Newtown station, thence to Necropolis.

THE FRIENDS of Mr. and Mrs. R. BASSETT are respectfully invited to attend the Funeral of their beloved BROTHER, Mr. R. Watson (railway employee); to move from his residence, Foreman-street, Marrickville, THIS DAY, at 1.15, to Newtown station, thence to Necropolis.

BRADSHAW.—The FRIENDS of the deceased Mr. ROBERT BRADSHAW are kindly informed that his Funeral will leave the residence of Mr. J. Hartley, 134 Foucart-street, Balmain, THIS (Friday) AFTERNOON, at 1.30, for Petersham station, thence to Necropolis. BOOTS and GOMMESON, Undertakers and Embalmers.

BRADSHAW.—The FRIENDS of Mr. PAUL BRADSHAW are respectfully invited to attend the Funeral of his beloved BROTHER, Robert; to move from the residence of Mr. J. Hartley, THIS (Friday) AFTERNOON, at 1.30 for Petersham station, thence to Necropolis. BOOTS and GOMMESON, Newtown, Leichhardt, Rockd.

BALMAIN UNITED FRIENDLY SOCIETIES' DISPENSARY, Limited.—The OFFICERS and MEMBERS of this Institution are respectfully invited to attend the Funeral of our late ex-president, ROBERT BRADSHAW; to move from his late residence, Cook-street, opposite Callan Park gates, THIS DAY, Friday, at 1 o'clock, for Rookwood Cemetery.
G. FITZPATRICK, Secretary.

M.U.I.O.O.F.—The OFFICERS and BRETHREN of the Loyal Pride of the West Lodge are respectfully invited to attend the Funeral of our late departed Brother, ROBERT BRADSHAW, P.G.; to move from his late residence, Cook-street, opposite Callan Park, at 1 o'clock, THIS DAY, Friday, 25th, to Rookwood Cemetery.
R. G. CHRISTIE, N.G.
HARRY COX, Sec.

COLLINS.—The FRIENDS of Miss FLORENCE M. WHEATLEY are kindly invited to attend the Funeral of her beloved SISTER, the late Mrs. Emma Jane Collins, THIS (Friday) AFTERNOON; to move from No. 161 Liverpool-street, at half-past 1 o'clock, to the C. of E. Cemetery, Rookwood. T. DIXON, Undtkr., 23 Oxford-st.

RAMAGE.—The FUNERAL of the late Mr. ROBERT R. RAMAGE will leave his late residence, 121 Church-street, Camperdown, TO-MORROW (Saturday) AFTERNOON, at a quarter to 2 o'clock, for Newtown station. ERNEST ANDREWS and CO., Embalmers, 246 King-street, Newtown. Telephone, 75 N.

WOOD AND COMPANY, Undertakers, Embalmers, and Funeral Directors, 810 GEORGE-STREET SOUTH (next Christ Church). Branches—185 George-street West (next St. Barnabas' Church), Balmain (N. and S.), Petersham, North Sydney, Leichhardt, Pyrmont, and Marrickville. Tels., 726, &c.

J. CUNNINGHAM, Monumental Works, Margaret-st., Wynyard-square. Largest stock. Inspection invited.

Auction Sales.

ESTATE of MARGARET CHARLOTTE BAYLIS.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, at 11 a.m.
In the Rooms, 267 George-street.
By Order of W. H. PALMER, Esq., Official Assignee.
The Official Assignee's Right, Title, and Interest (if any) in the Will of the late ELIZABETH READ, of Coogee.

C. F. W. LLOYD and CO. will sell by auction as above. TERMS, CASH.

ESTATE W. S. FREDDY.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 12, at 11 a.m.

At the Wharf,
ERSKINE-STREET and SUSSEX-STREET.

By Order of the OFFICIAL ASSIGNEE.

IMPORTANT EXTENSIVE and UNRESERVED SALE
by
PUBLIC AUCTION
of the WHOLE of the
TIMBER, HORSES, DRAYS, HARNESS,
LARGE PUNT,
ON THE WHARFS,
ERSKINE-STREET and SUSSEX-STREET.

THE STOCK
comprises
MOULDINGS
CEDAR
PINE
FLOORING BOARDS
LATHS
SASHES, GLAZED AND UNGLAZED
AMERICAN DOORS
BEECH LOGS
HARDWOOD FLOORING
FOREST OAK and REDWOOD SHINGLES
DRESSED and UNDRESSED HARDWOOD
HOBART PALINGS
BALTIC FLOORING and WEATHERBOARDS
T. and G. LININGS
UNDRESSED KAURI BOARDS
AMERICAN SHELVING and REDWOOD
POSTS and RAILS
SAWN HARDWOOD PALINGS, 5 and 6 feet
7 DRAUGHT HORSES
SADDLE and HARNESS MARE DOLLY
6-SPRING DRAYS
1 SULKY
1 BLOCK DRAY
SETS HEAVY and LIGHT HARNESS
TIMBER JINKER
HAND TRUCK
1 PUNT 40 x 20.

It would be impossible to enumerate the whole of the lines in an advertisement, but Catalogues are being prepared in which the whole of the Stock will be set out in detail, and in such quantities as will suit both large and small buyers.
There is a Large Stock of Timber of all kinds, and it is in perfect condition.
The DRAUGHT HORSES are worthy of special mention. They are all in first-class condition, and thoroughly staunch and quiet.

TO TIMBER MERCHANTS, BUILDERS and CONTRACTORS, and THE TRADE.

C. F. W. LLOYD and CO. have received instructions from the Official Assignee to sell by auction on TUESDAY, 12th January, at 11 a.m., on the Wharfs, Erskine and Sussex streets, the Whole of the Large Stock of Timber, Horses, Drays, Punt, &c.
NO RESERVE. TERMS, CASH.
Offices: 267 George-street.

THURSDAY, 31st DECEMBER.
By Order of the Mortgagees.
RIVER STEAMER, YOUNG DICK, AND TWO PUNTS.

JOHN H. MUNRO has received instructions from the Mortgagees to sell by public auction, at the Rooms, Prince-street, Grafton, on THURSDAY, 31st December, at 11 o'clock, The River Steamer Young Dick, all well found and in first-class order. Her dimensions are—Length, 83½ft.; width, 13½ft. She is constructed of wood, propelled by screw. Tonnage, 18-h.p. gross, 27-h.p. nominal, and is authorised to carry 180 passengers on a very light draught of water. Also, two Hardwood Punts, 50ft. x 19ft. x 6ft. deep. The Steamer and one Punt can be inspected at the wharf lately occupied by Messrs. John See and Co., and the other Punt at Maclean. Terms—One-third Cash deposit, balance at 6, 12, and 18 months at 7 per cent. secured by mortgage.

Personal.

ARTISTS and PAINTERS.—If you want best quality Goods at Lowest Cost, buy from
JAMES SANDY and CO.,
271 and 330 George-street.

MARRIAGES (Under Act of Parliament, 19th Vic., No. 30, N.S.W.) WELDON'S, 87 Phillip-street, next Hotel Metropole. MARRIAGES LEGALLY SOLEMNISED by fully ordained Ministers of recognised Churches. FEE, £1. Witnesses provided free. Any denomination. The ONLY address; very quiet and reserved. Ministers may be consulted DIRECT or by letter. No difference when parties reside out of Sydney. Fee, £1. BAPTISMAL ordinance and all ministerial services perf'd anywhere. Hours, 9 to 9.

A.—DETECTIVE AGENCY, with branches all over the world. Cooke, 126 Phillip-st. Telephone, 1910.

A LEGAL MARRIAGE CELEBRATION.—Marriages solemnised in STUDY, CHURCH, or private dwellings. Fee, £1 1s. No extras. Witnesses provided. Notice unnecessary. Arrange with Minister personally. No agency. No connection with others. 9 till 9. Minister's Study, 48 Elizabeth-street. Look for lamp upstairs.

A.—MADAM RODNEY, Celebrated Scientific and Practical Palmist. 18 Sydney Arcade, King-st.

A.—MADAME ZEPHEY, Clairvoyante, Scientific Palmist, 17 Royal Arcade, opposite New Markets.

AN Old Tried Friend, proved since 1880, is MARSHALL'S TONIC NERVINE, for Health, Strength.

ANYONE knowing whereabouts of Mr. WILLIAM WAUGH or FAMILY, from parish Naradale, Northumberland, Eng., last seen Newtown, Syd., 1884, please communicate Ben. Waugh, Alston's Board.-h., Granville.

ARTIFICIAL TEETH.—Painless Dentistry.—A beautiful SET for one guinea. Mr. GEORGE, one of Sydney's leading Dentists, 461 Pitt-street, near Christ Church, has reduced his prices below all others.

BINET'S "DRY ELITE" CHAMPAGNE, 1884 and 1889 vintages. Harrison and Attwood, agents.

CYCLING SCHOOL, 162 Castlereagh-st., conducted by Misses BEYER. Cycling taught thoro'ly and quickly.

DEAREST,—Got your wishes yesterday; did wish you season's compliments Wednesday's Herald, our corner.

DENTISTRY.—HENRY GEORGE LOW for Artificial TEETH. 38 and 40 Regent-st., near Railway.

DR. C. BURDETT, late surgeon of Himalaya, &c., &c. For change of address write 1129 Box, G.P.O.

"E. G."—Letter forwarded. Waiting for reply. E. A. W.

MADAME VON (Dean case), Clairvoyant, Scientist, has winner Summer Cup; home bol. 305 Crown-st.

MARRIAGES by Licensed Clergymen, 12s 6d. Beulah, 52 Brown-st., Camperdown. Open during holidays.

MRS. MELLON, 22 Waverley rd., Woollahra.—Priv. cons. daily, all matters. Materialis. seance, Sat.

MRS. Dr. LLOYD.—For private address apply to Box 1456, G.P.O.

MISS ALICE CLAYDEN.—Letter for you. Anyone knowing her address kindly send it or call on
B. C.,
135 Liverpool-street.

MORTEIN, the Great Insect Destroyer, whilst totally harmless to animal life, is certain death to Mosquitoes, Flies, Fleas, Cockroaches, Ants, &c. S. TAYLOR, Queen's-place, Sole Agent for N.S.W.

NELL.—A pleasant Xmas to you, and a happy New Year. W.

ORNAMENTAL HAIR for Style and Convenience.—A new stock of Coils and Tresses of Hair, suitable for the present style of Hairdressing, at reduced prices. Fringes in great variety, all shades, made of naturally curly hair (will curl with water). J. B. GOOCH, 295 George-street, opposite Hunter-street. See name on shop.

SODAWATER spoils good Whisky. Drink Dickens with water only.

SPIRITUALISM.—10 Park-st., upstairs. Public Seance, Friday night, 8 o'clock. 6d.

TO JULIET, IF SORRY!—Unloose my bonds, "those chords your magic charm have bound." Unlock the keys, "those chords which loving friendship sound." Happy be your Xmas time.

WILL NITA and NINA, who left Maryborough five years ago please call Herald Office, Sylvia's address.

Educational.

CAMPBELLTOWN GRAMMAR SCHOOL AND COMMERCIAL COLLEGE.
THE SANATORIUM OF THE SOUTH.
Head Master, H. OLIVER (Prizeman). For Excellence the Boarding-school. Superior general Education. Individual Tuition. Progress assured. Special attention paid to backward boys. Comfortable Home. High Moral Training. Personal attention of Headmaster. Grand Climate for delicate boys. Bookkeeping, Shorthand, Typewriting.

ROTHESAY SCHOOL, Carlton, near Kogarah.—Elevated healthy position, sea breezes, home comforts. Boarders, £10 10s or £12 12s without extras. New term, January 21st. Mrs. Wilson at home after January 19th.

Government Railways.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS, 1896.

HOLIDAY EXCURSION TICKETS will be issued from all stations to all stations (except for distances 15 miles and under between stations in the Sydney and Newcastle Suburban Sections), by all trains until FRIDAY, 1st January, inclusive; available for return until SATURDAY, 30th January, 1897, inclusive.

THROUGH CHEAP EXCURSION TICKETS WILL BE ISSUED
to
MELBOURNE, ADELAIDE, BROKEN HILL, AND BRISBANE.

CHEAP EXCURSION TICKETS.—In addition to the Cheap Excursion Tickets ordinarily issued on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays, similar tickets at 2d per mile first class return (minimum 1s), and 1d per mile second class return (minimum 9d), will be issued at Sydney and Suburban stations only to stations outside the Suburban area as follows:—

CHRISTMAS DAY, FRIDAY, 25th DECEMBER.
7.28 a.m., for Nowra.
8.0 a.m., for Goulburn.
8.20 a.m., for Eskbank.
8.15 a.m., for Newcastle; 7.50 a.m., from Milson's Point.

BOXING DAY SATURDAY, 26th DECEMBER.
7.30 a.m. for Wollongong and stations beyond; 7.38 a.m. for Wollongong.
8.15 a.m. for Newcastle, 7.50 a.m. from Milson's Point.

SIMILAR CHEAP Tickets will also be issued to Sydney at stations outside the suburban area by the trains as under:—
FRIDAY, 25th December.—9.20 p.m. from Orange.
SATURDAY, 26th December.—4.35 a.m. from Nowra, 5 a.m. from Goulburn, 5 a.m. from West Maitland, and 6 a.m. from Newcastle.
These Cheap Tickets will be available for return by any train up to and including MONDAY, 4th JANUARY, 1897.
Cheap Excursion Tickets to the Hawkesbury River in connection with the steamer General Gordon will be issued at Sydney and suburban stations on Christmas Day, Boxing Day, and Sunday, 27th December.
In addition to the ordinary service Special Trains will leave Sydney as under.

SOUTH COAST LINE.
FRIDAY, 25th December.—7.28 a.m. and 7.30 p.m. for Nowra.
SATURDAY, 26th December.—7.30 a.m. for Nowra, 7.38 a.m. for Wollongong, 9.30 a.m. for Kiama, 7.30 p.m. for Kiama.
On 26th December additional trams will be run to Rockdale, Lady Robinson's Beach, Kogarah, Sans Souci and Sandringham, Como, Sutherland and National Park.

SOUTHERN LINE.
FRIDAY, 25th December.—8 a.m. for Goulburn.
The 5.2 p.m. EXPRESS TRAIN, Sydney to Goulburn, FRIDAY EVENINGS, WILL NOT RUN on XMAS DAY, 25th December.

WESTERN LINE.
FRIDAY, 25th December.—8.20 a.m for Eskbank.
SATURDAY, 26th December.—6.50 p.m. for Richmond.
On FRIDAY, 25th December, the 4.50 p.m. Express Train, Sydney to Mount Victoria, and on SATURDAY, 26th December, the 2.25 p.m. Express Train, Sydney to Mount Victoria, WILL NOT RUN.

NORTHERN LINE.
FRIDAY, 25th December, 8.15 a.m. for Gosford, and 9.5 a.m. for Hawkesbury.
SATURDAY, 26th December, 8.15 a.m. and 9.40 a.m. for Gosford; 9.5 a.m. for Hawkesbury; 9.55 a.m. for Hornsby Junction.
SUNDAY, 27th December, 6.0 p.m. for Newcastle.

MILSON'S POINT LINE.
The ordinary timetable for this line will be suspended, and an improved service of trains will be run on 26th December.

CLOSING OF GOODS SHEDS AND CENTRAL BOOKING OFFICE.
On 25th and 26th December the Goods Sheds at Redfern and Alexandria will be closed.
Darling Harbour Goods Shed will be open until 10 a.m. only for the delivery of perishable traffic on 25th and 26th December.
The Goods Sheds at Suburban and Country stations will be closed on 25th December; they will also be closed on 26th December, except for the receipt and delivery of perishable traffic.
The Central Booking Office will be closed on 25th December, but on 26th December will be open until 10 a.m. for the sale of tickets and delivery of perishable parcels only.
Further particulars can be obtained from all Stationmasters and at the Central Booking Office, George-street, Sydney.

SPECIAL EXCURSION TRIPS TO THE HAWKESBURY RIVER
in connection with the steamer
GENERAL GORDON.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS.
CHRISTMAS DAY, Friday, 25th; BOXING DAY, Saturday, 26th; and SUNDAY, 27th December.
TRAINS will leave as under:—
CHRISTMAS DAY, Friday, 25th December.—Sydney at 8.5 a.m., and Milson's Point at 9.33 a.m.
BOXING DAY, Saturday, 26th December.—Sydney at 9.5 and 9.40 a.m.; Milson's Point at 9.33 a.m.
SUNDAY, 27th December.—Sydney at 9.32 a.m.

On arrival at Hawkesbury the steamer General Gordon will be in waiting to take passengers for a trip of 30 miles on the river, occupying about five hours.
Return fares (including steamer trip): From Sydney and Suburban stations—First-class, 5s 6d; second-class, 3s 6d.
By order of the Commissioners.
H. M'LACHLAN, Secretary.

TRAMWAY ARRANGEMENTS.
CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS, 1896.

CHRISTMAS DAY, FRIDAY, 25th DECEMBER.
North Shore Cable line, 15 minutes' service from 7.45 a.m. all day. North Shore Electric line, week day service from 8.34 a.m. up to 1.10 p.m. from Ridge-street, thence half hourly.
Enfield line, ordinary week-day timetable up to 4.45 p.m., after which additional trips as shown for Saturday will be run.
Ordinary week-day timetable will be in force on all other lines, except that the early morning workmen's trams will be cancelled.
By order of the Commissioners,
H. M'LACHLAN, Secretary.

Bicycles Wanted and for Sale.

WHY NOT HAVE ONE OF THE BEST?
HENLEY BICYCLES for LADIES or GENTLEMEN
may be purchased for £21 10s.
NO BETTER BICYCLES BUILT.
Discount to trade buyers. Another good one—
THE INTERCHANGEABLE.
Strongest Wheel in the Market. Price £21 10s.
SPECIALLY DESIGNED FOR ROUGH ROADS, AND HARD WORK.
Discount to trade buyers.
A lot of First-class ENGLISH BICYCLES, being manufacturer's samples, from £12 10s.
FRANK GRIMLEY,
263 and 265 CLARENCE-STREET (near the Town Hall), Sydney.

ADVERTISER has a tried and effective preventive of tire punctures. Worth its weight in gold. Particulars sent on receipt of stamps or postal note, 5s.
Tire, Post-office, Goulburn.

BICYCLES for SALE, solid Dunlop and M. and M. tires, £8 15s to £11 11s. H. Hillier, 137 Sussex-st.

BICYCLISTS.—Before buying, call and see Acme, prices from £16 10s. J. M. Maud, 67 Liverpool-st.

BURNIP'S Patent Cycle BRUSH, 1s, all Cycle depots. Wholesale Burnip and Co., patentees, manufs.

B. AND S. BICYCLES, best and cheapest in colonies. Call and see them. Burnip and Co., 47 King-st.

GLADIATOR BICYCLES.—C. S. Allen, agent, Wynyard-buildings, Wynyard-square.

T. P. JENKINS'S Cycling School.—Ladies call and try my pat. machines for teaching. Opp. Queen-st. gates.

FOR REPAIRS try Simpson, of Newtown, good work, lowest price, cash only.

Amusements.

THE FIRST INSTRUMENT SHOWN IN SYDNEY IS NOW EXHIBITED AT SPECIALLY VENTILATED PREMISES,

478 GEORGE-STREET, 478
478 OPP. NEW MARKETS. 478

IT IS THE ONLY GENUINE

LUMIERE CINEMATOGRAPHE.

Depicting with Lifelike Realism Animated Nature.
Admission, 1s; Children, 6d.
SPECIAL NOTICE.

TO-NIGHT, TO-NIGHT,
7.45, 8.30, 9.15.
3 PROGRAMMES. 3

ORGAN RECITAL.
TOWN HALL.
SATURDAY at 8. SATURDAY.
SPECIAL HOLIDAY RECITAL.
POPULAR PROGRAMME.
Carmen (Bizet), Impromptu (Jaell), Serenade (Gounod), Berceuse, "Lachine" (Delibes), Marche au Flambeaux (Meyerbeer), Marche Nuptiale (Mendelssohn), Gavotte (Louis XIII.).
THE STORM, IDYLL No. 1.
THE STORM, IDYLL No. 1.
ADMISSION, 6d and 1s.

ROYAL STANDARD THEATRE, Castlereagh-street.
ON CHRISTMAS NIGHT,
GRAND SACRED and CLASSICAL CONCERT
by the
SUNDAY NIGHT LECTURE COMMITTEE.
SPECIAL ARTISTS ENGAGED.

BRONTE BATHS, WAVERLEY.
BATHING and PICNIC RESORT.
The Cheapest and most enjoyable place to spend the holidays. SEA BATHS OPEN ALL DAY.

PADDINGTON TOWN HALL.
BOXING and NEW YEAR'S NIGHTS.
Gardiner's Monster Holiday Socials. Dancing, 8 till 12. Mr. C. Bonsall's Full String Band. Double tickets, 2s 6d. A Lady's Gold Brooch and a Gentleman's Silver Watch will be given away; every person a chance.

THEATRE ROYAL.
Lessee, Mr. Bland Holt. Sub-lessee, Mr. Geo. Rignold. Acting Manager, Mr. Joe Brown. Treasurer, Mr. M. Marcus. Stage Manager, Mr. W. J. Haslitt.
TO-MORROW, BOXING DAY,
TWO PERFORMANCES.
AFTERNOON at 2. EVENING at 8.
ACCLAMATION ON ALL SIDES
ACCLAMATION ON ALL SIDES
was last night on its initial presentation bestowed upon Mr. GEORGE RIGNOLD'S
MAGNIFICENT DRAMATIC SPECTACLE.

TOMMY ATKINS (×10) — The Great Patriotic, Military Spectacle. A Prodigious Success from the rise to the fall of the curtain.
A PHENOMENAL PLAY.
TOMMY ATKINS (×11) — Illustrating the Life, Joys, Dangers, and Heroism of Britain's Soldiers, the Extenders and Defenders of our Empire.

TO-MORROW, SATURDAY,
GRAND MATINEE PERFORMANCE
of
TOMMY ATKINS.

Doors open at 1.30. Commence at 2 o'clock.
The BOX PLAN for Saturday's Matinee and Evening Performances will be open from 10 a.m. in the Dress Circle Vestibule. Prices, 4s, 3s, 2s, and 1s. Early door tickets 6d extra, obtainable at Dress Circle Entrance.

SYDNEY CRICKET GROUND.
TO-MORROW and MONDAY.
N.S.W. JUNIOR CRICKET ASSOCIATION,
INTERCOLONIAL CRICKET MATCH,
QUEENSLAND v. N.S. WALES.
Gates opened at 11 a.m. Play starts at noon. Luncheon, 1.30 p.m. Game resumed at 2.15 p.m. Admission, 6d to Ground, 6d extra to Grand Stand. Members must produce their tickets at the gates to obtain admission.
By order of the Trustees.
S. H. FAIRLAND, Secretary.
Office, 80 Castlereagh-street.

DR. AND Mrs. MILLS
will begin a
COURSE OF EIGHT LECTURES
on
METAPHYSICAL HEALING
on
MONDAY, JANUARY 4th, at 8 p.m.,
Vickery's-chambers, 82 Pitt-street.
LECTURES
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday Evenings. Fee for the course 1 guinea.

UNITARIAN CHURCH, HYDE PARK,
TO-NIGHT, at 8.
Christmas Concert Service, with Lecture by
Rev. GEORGE WALTERS,
on "Dickens and Thackeray" (with Readings).
Songs by
Miss Marion Llewelyn and Mrs. Bourke.
Admission, Free. Collection for Church funds.

XMAS CARNIVAL, WAVERLEY PARK, THIS AFTERNOON, in Aid of the poor of Waverley. Grand Procession at 2.30. Norris Brass Band and Oriental Silver Band. All the Public Bodies of the district. Fire Brigades' Competition, Bicycle Races, Tugs of War, and GRAND FANCY DRESS CRICKET MATCH. Foot Races, Ladies' Bicycle Event for Graceful Riding, Palmistry and the Occult Sciences, and other attractions.
Admission 6d, children half price.
Light Refreshment on the ground.

SYDNEY PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY.

TOWN HALL. TO-NIGHT.
"THE MESSIAH."
Principals:
Miss EDITH O. KING
Mrs. C. C. LANCE
Mr. HENRY WEIR
Mr. F. J. HALLEWELL.
Organist, Mr. J. EDWARD SYKES.
Leader of Orchestra, Mr. G. RIVERS ALLPRESS.
Conductor, Signor HAZON.
1s, 2s, 3s.
Fee for reserving seats, 1s each. Plan at Town Hall from 12 to 5.

THE MESSIAH.

FRIENDLY SOCIETIES
PROCESSION, SPORTS, AND ART UNION.
AGRICULTURAL GROUND. BOXING DAY.
SPLENDID FAMILY PICNIC GROUNDS, HOT WATER FREE.
IMMENSE PROGRAMME OF SPORTS.
BICYCLE RACES BY LEAGUE OF WHEELMEN,
including MEGSON, LEWIS, and PAYNE.
GRAND NAVAL AND MILITARY COMPETITIONS.
A PROCESSION OF SOCIETIES WILL LEAVE THE G.P.O., MARTIN-PLACE, at 9.30 a.m., to the strains of the Newtown, N.A.V., and Britannia Brass Bands.
DANCING IN THE HUGE PAVILION.
MERRY-GO-ROUNDS, PUNCH and JUDY and OTHER SHOWS, SWINGS, &c.
LOVELOCK AND DENT'S DOUBLE COMPANY SPECIALLY ENGAGED TO GIVE FREE PERFORMANCES THROUGHOUT THE DAY.
TRAMS LEAVE BENT-STREET AND RAILWAY STEPS EVERY 6 MINUTES.
TICKETS, ADMISSION AND CHANCE IN ART UNION, 1s.
JAS. FINCH,
Gen. Secretary.

XMAS. THE PIANO BOOM. XMAS.
SOLE RETAIL PIANO AGENCIES ARE, OR WOULD BE, MONOPOLIES.
FAIR OPEN MARKET COMPETITION IS THE BUYER'S PROTECTION.
ALL OUR
COLLARD'S, CHAPPELL'S, LIPP'S, SCHIEDMEYER'S, RONISCH'S, AND DRESDEN'S
AT OPEN MARKET PRICES. THE LOWEST IN SYDNEY.
TWO SEMI-GRANDS. GREAT BARGAINS.
ELVY AND COMPANY. 329 GEORGE-STREET.

A WELL-KNOWN SYDNEY PUBLICAN
A MARTYR TO INDIGESTION AND CONSTIPATION.
½ A BOTTLE OF "WAHOO" CURED HIM.

I wish to add my testimony to the wonderful properties possessed by "WAHOO." I have been very bad with Indigestion and Constipation for about six years. I was so bad I was almost afraid of taking food. I was restless and sleepless, and woke up unrefreshed each morning, feeling so tired and irritable that I often felt life was hardly worth living under the circumstances. I had tried scores of different medicines, and had been under medical treatment, but without getting more than temporary relief. I have only taken half a bottle of "WAHOO," and can truthfully say it is simply a marvellous remedy. I got relief in less than three days, and now am completely recovered. Yours truly,
Sydney, December 17, 1896. (Sgd.) C. F. CULLEN, Captain Cook Hotel, Kent-street.
"WAHOO," price 2s 6d, from all chemists, or post-free from the Sole Manufacturers and Proprietors,
LOASBY'S "WAHOO" MANUFACTURING COMPANY, LTD., 171 KENT-STREET, SYDNEY.
Wholesale from all Wholesale Chemists and Merchants.

B. L. CORTO ROTHSCHILD
CIGARS,
Made of the Finest
6d EACH HAVANA TOBACCO, 6d EACH
SEE THE NAME CORTO ON THE BANDS,
AND BEWARE OF IMITATIONS.

THE MOUNTAIN MYSTERY,
on
BOXING DAY,
at the
SCHOOL OF ARTS.
Grand and thrilling display of scenes of the Recent
MOUNTAIN MYSTERY
on
BOXING DAY
at the
SCHOOL of ARTS,
Pitt-street.
Admission: ONE SHILLING; CHILDREN, 6d.

ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS, MOORE PARK.
CHRISTMAS DAY.
THE BEST, THE CHEAPEST,
and by far the most amusing and instructive place to go to is the "ZOO."
By far the BEST PLACE FOR PICNICS
is decidedly the
"ZOO,"
with its well-kept Lawns, Terraces, and Flower Gardens, with its Pretty Lake and Weeping Willows, Aquatic Plants, and Goldfish.
ALL VISITORS TO SYDNEY
SHOULD MAKE A POINT OF SEEING THE ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS.
PARENTS SHOULD TAKE THEIR CHILDREN
TO THE "ZOO" TO SEE THE
"WILD MAN OF THE WOODS,"
or the
ORANG OUTANG OF BORNEO.
THE ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS
are, of all the places, the most delightful place you can take your children to.
For in the MENAGERIE they will see
CAGES FULL OF LIONS
CAGES FULL OF TIGERS
CAGES FULL OF PUMAS
ELEPHANTS AND CAMELS
BEARS, HYENAS, JACKALS, DINGOES,
and
all kinds of Animals too numerous to mention.
Ostriches, Emus, Cassowaries, Flamingoes, Swans, Ducks, Coots, Water Hens, Macaws, Parrots and Parrakeets, Eagles and Vultures, and Finches and Song Birds too many to enumerate.
At 3 p.m.,
Mr. J. Burrows, the Elephant Keeper,
will put
JESSIE and TOBY
through their
WONDERFUL PERFORMANCE.
At 4 p.m.,
THE LIONS, TIGERS, LEOPARDS, and PUMAS
WILL BE FED,
AND AT 4.30 THE PELICANS.
Refreshments can be obtained at moderate prices at the Refreshment Rooms.
Admission to the Gardens, 6d; Children, 3d.
The Randwick and Coogee Trams stop at the Gates. Fare, 3d. Children, 1d.

XMAS DAY.
SELECT PICNIC TO ATHOL GARDENS.
DANCING DAY AND NIGHT.
First-class String Band Engaged.
STEAMERS from Circular Quay at 2.30, 4, 4.30, and 8 o'clock p.m.
Returning from Athol at 3.30, 4.30, 7, 9.30, and 10.30 p.m.
Return Steamer Fare, 6d.
Pavilion—Gentlemen, 1s; Ladies, 6d.

TIVOLI THEATRE.
Sole Lessee and Director... Mr. Harry Rickards.
Acting Manager and Treasurer ... Mr. James Sharp.
CONTINUED UNABATED SUCCESS
of
Mr. HARRY RICKARDS'S
NEW
TIVOLI MINSTRELS and SPECIALTY COMPANY.
ANNOUNCEMENT EXTRAORDINARY.
GIGANTIC XMAS ATTRACTIONS.
TO-MORROW, SATURDAY, TO-MORROW.

TWO PERFORMANCES.	TWO PERFORMANCES.
THE AFTERNOON.	THE EVENING.
Doors open at 2 p.m.	Ordinary doors open 7.15.
Commence at 2.35 p.m.	Commence at 7.35.

Mr. Harry Rickards begs to inform his Tivoli Patrons that he has engaged absolutely the Greatest Company of REAL STAR ARTISTS that have ever been brought together in the Southern Hemisphere. Never before in the annals of theatrical enterprise has such a gigantic array of talent been presented in any one theatre in the world.
THREE GREAT COMPANIES IN ONE,
and no advance in the prices.
FIRST APPEARANCE in SYDNEY of the nineteenth instalment of Mr. Rickards's English artists, the White-Eyed Musical Kaffir,
GEORGE H. CHIRGWIN,
whose name is a household word among theatre-goers of the old world, and it was only by the inducement of an enormous salary (the largest ever paid to a single artist visiting these shores) that Mr. Chirgwin decided to make a FLYING TRIP through the colonies.
REAPPEARANCE OF ENGLAND'S GREATEST ACTOR-VOCALIST,
Mr. CHAS. GODFREY,
in a Magnificent New Repertoire, including his Original Xmas Scena, "SANTA CLAUS," assisted by Miss MAIDGE RICKARDS and Mr. W. D'ENSEM.
Reappearance of England's Greatest Ventriloquist,
Mr. J. W. WINTON,
with New Figures, New Patter, and other Novelties.
Reappearance of that clever young English Comedian,
Mr. HARRY SHINE,
in Lightning New Patter Songs and Eccentric Dances, that will make you laugh against your will.
First time in Australia of a Brilliant New entitled BALLET entitled
THE SPORTING GIRLS,
introducing Military Marches, Rifle and Bayonet Exercises.
The Elegant Costumes for this production specially designed by Mrs. Sam May, the Eminent Costumier of Bow-street, London, Mrs. Lloyd, and Assistants.
That Clever young Arab Gun Spinner,
FRANK ABOSALEH,
will also give his Marvellous Exhibition.
Continued Brilliant Success of those Marvellously Clever Duettists and Specialty Dancers
James THE ALLISONS Lucy.
These fine artists are universally acknowledged by one and all to be the quickest, neatest, and most finished team that has ever been seen.

Mr. JAMES BAIN, Australia's Comic Vocalist.	Mr. CHAS. COGILL, Koiner of Komedy.
Mr. FRED. DUNCAN	Miss MILLIE HERBERTE
Mr. W. D'ENSEM	Miss AMY DEWHURST
Mr. FRANK YORKE	Miss NINA OSBORNE
Mr. CLARENCE LYNDON	Miss MINNIE GOEPEL
Mr. JACK EVANS	Miss MAY FLOWER
Mr. P. C. JOSEPHS	Miss DAISY CHARD

and our
25 TIVOLI BALLERINAS.
Prices, 2s 6d, 2s, 1s, and 6d. Booked Seats, 6d extra.
Early Doors, 6.45 to 7.15.
Box Plan at Theatre open all day.
Early Door Tickets on Sale at Theatre all day.
General Manager, JOHN C. LEETE.

XMAS (1896) and NEW YEAR (1897) HOLIDAYS
POPULAR EXCURSIONS to the HAWKESBURY RIVER and PORT HACKING.
Weather permitting, from wharf foot of Market-street, at 10 a.m. sharp.

BOXING DAY, SATURDAY, December 26.	NEW YEAR'S DAY, FRIDAY, January 1.
S.S. NEWCASTLE, 1251 tons, to Cowan Bay.	S.S. NEWCASTLE, 1251 tons, to Cowan Bay.
S.S. NAMOI, 1414 tons, to Careel Bay, Pittwater.	S.S. SYDNEY, 634 tons, to Port Hacking.
S.S. MAITLAND, 880 tons, to Port Hacking.	

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS.
SATURDAY, 2nd JANUARY, at 10 a.m.
S.S. NAMOI, to Cowan Bay.
S.S. SYDNEY, to Newport.
Excursionists will be landed for about three hours, arriving in Sydney on return about 6 p.m. Luncheon, 1s 6d, provided by the company. Refreshments at moderate rates. Band engaged for each steamer.
RETURN FARE, 3s. Children half-price.
F. J. THOMAS, Manager.
Newcastle and H. R. S.S. Company, 147 Sussex-street.

COOGEE PALACE AQUARIUM.
Immense and Varied PROGRAMMES on Xmas Day, Boxing Day, New Year, 2nd January, and Every Sunday Afternoon (free). BOXING DAY.—The celebrated Enterprise Brass Band; Special Engagement of Mr. W. G. Lester, America's Greatest Ventriloquist and Character Impersonator; Joe Watts, Champion Clog Dancer of Australia; George Fischer, the marvellous Deaf and Dumb Conjuror; Misses Lillian Raymond, Daisy Merritt, May Hickey, Ruby Collier, Ivy Collier, Lily de Vere, Eva Howard, Messrs. Joe Edmonds, Claude Calvert, Ted Wallace, Sam Wilson, &c.

MANLY. MANLY. MANLY.
XMAS HOLIDAYS, 1896.
XMAS AND BOXING DAY.
The PORT JACKSON CO-OPERATIVE S.S. COMPANY will run the whole of this fleet, consisting of six (6) large first-class Saloon Steamers,
AT SHORT INTERVALS
TO AND FROM CIRCULAR QUAY AND MANLY,
from 7.15 a.m. to 11.15 p.m.
SPECIAL ATTENTION is called to the SUPERIOR ACCOMMODATION of this Company's Saloon Steamers, which are unsurpassed by any other Ferry Steamers in Australasia, and remember the Return Fare is only
6d ADULTS,
3d CHILDREN.
Port Jackson Co-operative S. S. Company, Ltd.,
Circular Quay, 23rd December, 1896.

CLONTARF, Spit, Flat Rock, Bantry Bay, Head of Middle Harbour.
BOXING DAY, BOXING DAY.
Steamers Birkenhead, Balmain, Leveret, and Psyche leave No. 4 Jetty, Circular Quay, half-hourly from 9 a.m. to 3.30 p.m. Last trip from Clontarf, 7 p.m.; Flat Rock, Bantry Bay, 6.30. All kinds of sports. Torsillo's Splendid Band for Dancing in Pavilion, Clontarf; admission, 1s. Hot and cold water free. Return fare, 1s; children, 3d.
CHRISTMAS DAY.—Steamers at 9, 10, 11 a.m., 2.30, 3, 3.30 and 7.30. CONCERT on Steamers at 3, 3.30, and 7.30. Bavarian Band on lawn at Clontarf. Return fare, 6d.
THE BEST PLACES TO SPEND HAPPY HOLIDAYS.

THIS DAY. THIS DAY.
Nelson's Fast and Favourite Steamer PHEASANT will leave Prince's Stairs at 3 p.m. THIS DAY for PEARL BAY and HEAD of MIDDLE HARBOUR.
Jiffkin's well-known String Orchestra will be in attendance, and play Sacred and Select Music during the afternoon.
Return Fare, 6d.

EDGAR STRAUS, Professor of Violoncello, will RESUME LESSONS January 18th, 1897.
C/o. Paling and Co., and
187 Albion-street.

GILBEY'S DRY GIN. Best Spirit in Hot Climates.

PALACE THEATRE.
Proprietor ... Mr. Geo. Adams
Sole Lessee and Director ... Mr. Phil. W. Goatcher
Manager and Treasurer ... Mr. Harrie Skinner.
UNDENIABLE
and
EMPHATIC
SUCCESS SUCCESS
of the
PALACE THEATRE COMPANY.
TO-MORROW, SATURDAY,
TO-MORROW, SATURDAY,
TO-MORROW, SATURDAY,
TWO
TWO
TWO
PERFORMANCES
PERFORMANCES
PERFORMANCES,
AFTERNOON and EVENING
AFTERNOON and EVENING
AFTERNOON and EVENING,
when the following
BRILLIANT ENGLISH
VAUDEVILLE ARTISTS
will have the honour of appearing.
Mr. R. G. KNOWLES—The very peculiar Comedian, one of England's Greatest Attractions on the Vaudeville Stage.
THE DELIVINES (3)—Grotesque Dancers, Acrobats, Contortionists, and Pantomimists. The Greatest in their line.
Miss WINIFRED JOHNSON—Celebrated Banjoist and Plantation Song and Dance Artist.
CLOTILDE ANTONIO—The Upside-Down Phenomenon; the Wonder of the 19th Century.
Mr. A. BELLMANN and Miss LOTTIE MOORE — Sketch Artists, Soloists, Duettists, and Dancers, in their Delightful, Refined Entertainment.
"MY FANCY"—Marvellous Buck Dancer.
SISTERS WINTERTON—Mandolinists and Dancers.
And
Mr. HENRY LEE,
in his Unique, Artistic Novelty—Great Men: Past and Present—for months the talk of London.
TO-MORROW NIGHT,
TO-MORROW NIGHT.
FIRST APPEARANCE
OF MESSRS.
WILTON AND STACK
WILTON AND STACK,
the world's greatest Triple Horizontal Bar Gymnasts.
HORIZONTAL BAR GYMNASTS,
introducing feats entirely new.
A Revelation in
GYMNASTIC ART.
Also will appear—
Mr. SYDNEY DEANE, late of the Royal Comic Opera Company — Miss ADA COLLEY (Australia's Nightingale), Everybody's Favourite "TRIXIE," the Fairy Prodigue (her First Appearance).
The BOVIS BROTHERS, Dancers, Singers, and Talking Comedians.
PRICES of ADMISSION:—

MATINEE:	NIGHTLY:
P. Boxes, 21s	P. Boxes, 21s
D. Circle, 2s 6d; Children, 1s	D. Circle, 3s
All Stalls, 2s; Children, 1s	Res. Stalls, 3s
Upper Circle, 1s; Children, 6d.	Stalls, 2s
	Upper Circle, 1s
	Children, Half-price.
Doors open 1.45. Commence 2.30.	Doors open 7.15. Commence 8 p.m.

BOX PLAN OPEN TO-MORROW AT THEATRE, 10 to 12 only.
EARLY DOORS TO ALL PARTS, 6.55 till 7.15, 6d extra to all parts.
TICKETS (only) for all parts of the house can be had throughout the day at
THE MARBLE BAR.

PONY RACES,
THIS
XMAS AFTERNOON.
LILLIE BRIDGE
CARNIVAL, 100 Sovs.
MINIATURE MELBOURNE CUP.
125 ENTRIES. 7 RACES.
BICYCLE RACES. TROTTING RACES.
Forest Lodge Trams and 'Buses run direct to Racecourse every few minutes. Fare 2d.

CLIFTON GARDENS.
BOXING DAY, DECEMBER 26th,
and
MONDAY, 28th DECEMBER.
1s. RETURN STEAMER FARE. 1s.
The only thoroughly SELECT PLEASURE RESORT in the harbour. I carry out to the letter what I advertise, and do not mislead the public by false and erroneous advertisements.
On no account will DISREPUTABLE characters be allowed on these grounds, as I do not cater for them, but for the RESPECTABLE portion of the public.
BALLROOM DANCING in the magnificent Port Jackson Pavilion from 10 a.m. till 10 p.m., to music supplied by C. BOXSELL'S STRING BAND and BAVARIAN BAND.
ADMISSION—
Gentlemen 1s, Ladies 6d
(for all day and evening).
Swings, Merry-go-Round, &c., Free.
Hot and Cold Water Free.
The CITY WATER has been laid on throughout the extensive grounds.
STEAMERS leave Jetty (opposite Custom-house) every 15 minutes from 9 a.m. till 3 p.m., and then every half hour until 7 p.m.
1s. RETURN STEAMER FARE. 1s.
A. J. THOMPSON, Manager.
Extract from Herald, November 10th.
"CLIFTON GARDENS maintained their reputation for being one of the most popular seaside resorts in the harbour, there being attracted thither yesterday (Prince of Wales' Birthday) some 2000 people. . . . Dancing was not the only attraction, however, the gardens and the estate of which they form part abounding in features which contribute materially to the enjoyment of the holiday-seeker. . . . Family parties were numerous, and they seemed to experience much pleasure from the outlook upon the most animated part of the harbour which the Clifton Gardens afford. . . . At Circular Quay throughout the day representatives of the proprietor were engaged carefully scrutinising would-be patrons, with the result that the proffered patronage of a goodly number was rejected."

WHAT BETTER PROOF! SILVERSTREAM SCHNAPPS is used in the Hospitals.

CORRY'S GARDENS, CABARITA.
BOXING DAY. BOXING DAY.
The Best Place to Spend the Holidays.
Every comfort and convenience for Family Picnics.
Merry-go-Rounds, Swings, and other Amusements Free.
BALLROOM DANCING.
Largest and Best Ventilated Pavilion in the Colonies.
Young Australian Band. Efficient M.Cs.
Hot and Cold Water Free. Luncheons and Refreshments as usual.
Special Saloon STEAMERS from King-street Wharf every half-hour from 10 o'clock.
NOTE THE CHARGES.
Return Steamer Fare, 6d; Grounds and Pavilion, 1s 3d.
Children accompanied by parents admitted free.
Good order and respectability may be relied on. The proprietor reserves the right to refuse admission to any person. Tel., 26 Burwood. T. CORREY, Proprietor.

DANCING.—LEIGH HOUSE,
XMAS NIGHT, 8 till 11.

GRAND Concert in Hunter-Baillie Memorial Church, Annandale, Xmas night. Selections "Messiah," &c.

"SANDRINGHAM."
STOLLEMACHE'S PLEASURE GROUNDS AND HOTEL.
"BOXING DAY."
Cold Luncheon, Meats, Salads, Fruit, and Cheese, 1s 6d; with Poultry, 2s (children half-price); OYSTERS, in outer pavilion, 6d plate; Tea, Sandwiches, &c., 3d.
"Hotel Tariff as usual."
Best accommodation; finest brands Liquors, 6d and 3d bar. Grounds fronting fine Sandy Beach. Swings, Boating, Fishing, &c.
Book direct to Sandringham from Redfern.
NEW PAVILION for HIRE (seat 500) for BOXING DAY or NEW YEAR'S DAY.
Telephone—Hotel, No. 4 Kogarah; City, 897.
Proprietor, E. D. TOLLEMACHE,
Caterer and Ref. Contractor, City.
Train, Drive, or Cycle, easy distance.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.
Sole Lessees, Messrs. Williamson and Musgrove.
Under the Management of Mr. C. B. Westmacott.
Treasurer, Mr. J. B. Moutrie.
COMPLETE OVERWHELMING SUCCESS.
THE AUDIENCE ENRAPTURED.
NOTHING SO MAGNIFICENT
ever witnessed in this city.
A SCENE OF GORGEOUS SPLENDOUR.
After months of arduous labour, and having spared not the slightest expense in any way that might tend towards success, Mr. Westmacott is delighted to announce that his anticipations have
BEEN EVEN MORE THAN REALISED,
and that the undoubted and unanimous verdict last evening was that
THIS YEAR'S CHRISTMAS ANNUAL IS
EMPHATICALLY THE FINEST
EVER PRESENTED TO A SYDNEY AUDIENCE.
TO-MORROW (BOXING) NIGHT and
EVERY EVENING
will be presented, on a scale of perfect completeness, and in all its wealth of magnificence, the Up-to-date Version specially written by Messrs.
BERT ROYLE and J. C. WILLIAMSON
of the Gorgeous Comic and Spectacular Pantomime,
SINBAD THE SAILOR,
or TINBAD THE TAILOR,
and the Wicked Ogres, the Good Fairy, and the Little Old Man of the Sea. To say nothing of the Bold Bad Wreckeroo.
MATINEE
TO-MORROW AFTERNOON at 2.
TREMENDOUS SUCCESS of

Mr. Frank Lawton	Mr. Will Crackles
Mr. Geo. Leopold	Miss Stella Radaile
Miss Mina Phillips	Mr. D'Arcy Stanfield
Mr. Joe Tolano	Miss Eva Clements
Miss Hettie Holroyd	Mr. Joe Walhalla
Mr. Walter Rivers	Miss Ada Baker
Mons. Provo	Little Florrie Ranger

and the famous
(6) BANVARD FAMILY (6)
A Perfect Furore of Enthusiasm created by America's Greatest Specialty Duo
THE LUCIFERS
THE LUCIFERS,
whose astounding performances were received with mightily outbursts of applause.
SCENES OF SPECTACULAR SPLENDOUR,
by Mr. W. B. SPONG.
MASTERPIECES OF MECHANICAL MARVELS.
THE BALLET OF THE HAREM.
THE NAUTCH DANCE.
THE BALLET OF THE NIGHT ELVES.
THE GRAND AMAZONIAN MARCH.
THE SONGS — THE LOCALISMS
THE SPECIALITIES — THE MUSIC
THE GROUPINGS — THE ACTING
all contributed to the consummation of
AN UNPRECEDENTED SUCCESS.
THE BEAUTIFUL TRANSFORMATION SCENE.
LE JARDIN DES FLEURS
et
LA DEMURE DES BEAUX PAPILLONS,
by Messrs. G. and J. GORDON, P. HOWDEN,
and Assistants.
HILARIOUS HARLEQUINADE.
The Music Composed, Selected, and Arranged by
Mr. GEO. F. PACK.
The entire production under the direction of
Mr. JOHN WALLACE.
MATINEES.—SEE SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT.
Box Plan at Nicholson's. (See announcement below.) D. Circle and Reserved Stalls, 5s; Stalls, 3s; Family Circle, 2s; Gallery, 1s. Early doors, 1s extra.
HAROLD ASHTON, Business Manager.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.
SINBAD THE SAILOR.
SPECIAL HOLIDAY MATINEES,
TO-MORROW, BOXING DAY
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 30
FRIDAY, NEW YEAR'S DAY
SATURDAY, JANUARY 2,
commencing at 2 sharp.
Children Half-price to all Parts (Gallery excepted).

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.
BOX OFFICE ARRANGEMENTS.
Owing to Nicholson's being Closed TO-DAY and TO-MORROW the Plan of D. Circle and Res. Stalls will be on view in the Vestibule of the Theatre, when seats may be booked for both AFTERNOON and EVENING performance on Boxing Day.

MERCADANTE'S MASS.—Gentlemen knowing same invited to St. Benedict's Choir TO-DAY, 11 a.m.

SALON CINEMATOGRAPHE,
NEARLY OPPOSITE LYCEUM THEATRE,
237 PITT-STREET, 237
SPECIAL NOTICE: ABSOLUTELY NO EXHIBITION TO-DAY (Christmas Day.)
Mr. JAMES MACMAHON acknowledges with much gratification the splendid recognition the public of New South Wales is according to the superb exhibition of the LATEST and GREATEST CINEMATOGRAPHE IN THE WORLD.
80,000 PEOPLE TO DATE. 80,000
New Subjects and (at all exhibitions) the Greatest Cinematographic Picture yet produced in the world,
LA LOIE FULLER.
TO-MORROW (BOXING DAY), Special Gala Exhibitions half-hourly, from 10.30 a.m. onwards.
ADMISSION—ONE SHILLING; Children, SIXPENCE.

THIS Afternoon, Garden Party at Botany. Family Picnic Boxing Day. Padd'ton Town Hall, Boxing Night.

JERUSALEM CYCLORAMA.
THE QUEEN CITY OF THE EARTH.
A CITY OF MARBLE PALACES RESURRECTED AND SHOWN
AS IT WAS 2000 YEARS AGO.
THIS CHRISTMAS DAY,
OPEN 2.30 TO 5.30 AND 7 TO 10 P.M.
FULL LECTURES, with Music, at 3 and 8 p.m., and Explanations at 4.30 o'clock.
THUNDER, LIGHTNING, and STORM.
At 3 and 8 p.m., LECTURES, BEAUTIFUL AERIAL EFFECTS and "Visions of Angels."
NO VISITOR SHOULD LEAVE SYDNEY WITHOUT SEEING THIS REMARKABLE EXHIBITION.
After the Evening Lecture beautiful Effects and Dissolving Views are produced. A treat for old and young.
Special and Appropriate Additions for Holidays. CHRISTMAS CAROLS, SOLOS, and CONCERTED MUSIC BY HIGH-CLASS ARTISTS.
REFRESHMENTS on the Well-kept Lawn.
BOXING DAY, OPEN FROM 10 a.m. TO 10 p.m.
ADMISSION, 1s; CHILDREN, 6d.

THIS Afternoon, Garden Party at Botany. Family Picnic Boxing Day. Padd'ton Town Hall, Boxing Night.

EDISON ELECTRIC PARLOUR,
162 PITT-STREET (opposite The Strand).
CHRISTMAS DAY, CLOSED.
The only Genuine
EDISON VITASCOPE
in Australia on view TO-MORROW.
AUSTRALIAN EDISON ELECTRIC COMPANY.
W. J. N. OLDERSHAW, Manager.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT, Chalmers Church, December 25, at 8 p.m. Admission, Sixpence.

BOTANY, BOXING DAY.—FAMILY PICNIC, hot water, milk, fruit for families free. Special trams.

HIGHLAND SOCIETY OF N.S.W.
GRAND SCOTS CONCERT,
NEW YEAR'S NIGHT, 8 o'clock
TOWN HALL.
Mesdames BESSIE FRASER
MAY GLENDENNING
CONSTANCE EVELYN
LOTTIE HYAM.
Messrs. HENRY WEIR
ALEC EDWARD
G. RIVERS ALLPRESS
J. EDWARD SYKES.
THE FELDWICK GLEE QUARTETTE
THE SYDNEY SCOTTISH FIFE BAND.
Tickets, 3s, 2s, 1s—at Paling's.
CHARLES MACLAURIN,
Sydney Hospital,
Hon. Sec. Concert Committee.

BOXING DAY, BOTANY.—£10 in Cash Prizes for Races. Dancing and Sports all day.

BONDI AQUARIUM.
Manager and Director ... W. O'Loughlin
Stage Manager, Mr. H. T. Wyld; Sports Manager, Mr. Sam Service; Judge, Mr. W. Partridge.
MONSTER ATTRACTIONS.
BOXING DAY and NEW YEAR'S DAY.
SATURDAY, 2nd January.
DANCING ALL DAY, to the strains of
MELIER'S STRING BAND,
under the supervision of Mr. W. O'Loughlin,
THE GAIETY COMBINATION
comprises the following Artistes, who will appear:—
The Champion of Australia,
CARL MONDINI,
in his Great Feats on the Triple Horizontal Bar.
Miss CLAYTON, Top-boot and Eccentric Dancer.
Flo | ELLISON DOUBLE | Geo.
Song, Dance, and Sketch Artists.
CHRIS. SYMES.
The Somewhat Different Comedian, Prof. W. JACKSON, the Original Blondin, in his Marvellous Feats on the High Rope, after his Successful Engagement at Chicago Exhibition. He challenges the world.
THE ROYAL ITALIAN ACROBATS, 40 Star Artists.
WILL SAYLES, Comedian and Endman.
E. BRYCE, high-class Vaudeville Entertainer. Messrs. WARSHAW, MADELINE JENYNS, Song, Dance, and Specialty Artist, in Plantation Songs. ETHEL PHILLIPS, in her Charming Ballads and Neat Songs and Dances. TOM ARMSTRONG, Irish Comedian and Clog Dancer. Miss CROWEN, Contralto. HARRIET WARSHAW, Descriptive and Character Vocalist.
GREAT AERIAL FLIGHT.
HARRY EMANUEL, Descriptive Vocalist,
The Dummy | SLAVIN | Clown
in his Great Barrel Dancing Act.
LENARDO, the Bicycle King, and Madame SELBEN, the Great Trapeze Artiste.
Waltzing Competition for a Grand Prize.
Britannia Brass Band.
Prof. Stellway, the Only Palmist, will be on the Lawn all day. Footraces for Old and Young. Special Trams to the Gates. Toys for the Children. Punch and Judy Shows. Merry-go-Rounds. Swing Boats. Skating.
LARGEST AND BEST SHOW IN THE COLONIES.
Hot and Cold Water Free.
Admission: ONE SHILLING. Children, Threepence.

BOXING DAY.
SHAMROCK CLUB.
FAMILY PICNIC TO ATHOL GARDENS.
Hibernian Band and National Musicians Engaged.
DANCING DAY and NIGHT, from 10.30 a.m. to 10.30 p.m. Steamers from Circular Quay at short intervals till 8 p.m. Hot and Cold Water provided free. Return Steamer Tickets, 1s; Children, Free. Admission to Pavilion—Gent.'s, 1s; Ladies, 6d. D. FARRELL, President.
T. QUIRK, Hon. Sec.

THIS Afternoon, Garden Party at Botany. Family Picnic Boxing Day. Padd'ton Town Hall, Boxing Night.

GRAND GARDEN PARTY This Afternoon at Botany. Afternoon Tea included. Gentlemen, 2s; Ladies, 1s.

EVERY good Housekeeper uses WADE'S CORN FLOUR; it has no equal.

BOTANY, BOXING DAY.—Gardiner's Monster Fam. PICNIC. Families, 2s 6d; Gents, 1s; Ladies, 6d.

GILBEY'S DRY GIN. Specially Recommended by Doctors.

LYCEUM THEATRE.
Sole Lessee and Manager ... Mr. PHIL. W. GOATCHER.
Treasurer ... Mr. W. H. WALLACE.
Representative for Mr. C. F. M'Carthy ... Mr. A. J. FARRELL.
TO-MORROW, BOXING NIGHT, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 26.
For the First Time in Australia,
The Comedy Drama,
LADY BLARNEY,
by ALFRED KENNEDY,
in which
Mr. CHAS. F. M'CARTHY
will make his first appearance
CAST OF CHARACTERS:
NANCY O'NEILL (otherwise Lady Blarney) ... Mr. CHAS. F. M'CARTHY
Col. Martin Creighton ... Mr. Frank Clark
Gerald Caughtrey ... Mr. Scot Inglis
(by arrangement with Messrs. Williamson and Musgrove)
Jack Caughtrey ... Mr. Robert Inman
Droogan ... Mr. Harry Hodson
Captain Chasmer ... Mr. Richard Stewart, jun.
Charley Dorian ... Mr. Ralph Roberts
Dionisious Doolittle ... Mr. Carden Wilson
Joe Brownley ... Mr. Syd. Deane
Lydia Chasmer ... Miss Harrie Ireland
Ethel Clifford ... Miss Yda Hamilton
Kibbie Chasmer ... Miss Alice May
Bridget ... Miss Lallie Roberts
Guests, &c.
SYNOPSIS OF SCENERY.
Time—The Present. Place—New York City.
ACT 1.—Library in Gerald Caughtrey's House.
ARRIVAL OF NANCY O'NEILL.
ACT 2.—Supposed Lapse of Two Weeks.
Drawing-room (during a Reception) in Gerald Caughtrey's House.
NANCY'S DILEMMA.
ACT 3.—Two Months Later.
An Afternoon in June, followed by Sunset and Night with moonlight effect—Mansion and Grounds of the Clifford Estate on the Hudson, with a view of the United States Camp at Peek's Hill.
NANCY O'NEIL FOILS GERALD CAUGHTREY'S PLANS.
ACT 4.—Next Day.
INTERIOR OF THE CLIFFORD HOMESTEAD.
THE MAGNIFICENT SCENERY has all been Specially Painted by the Eminent Artists, Messrs. PHIL. W. GOATCHER and JOHN HENNINGS.
Musical Conductor ... Mr. David Cope
Stage Manager ... Mr. Harry Hodson.
PRICES, 5s, 2s, and ONE SHILLING.
Early Doors 1s extra to all parts of the house.
Acting Manager, Mr. R. P. KENNA.

LYCEUM THEATRE.
SPECIAL NOTICE.
BOX PLAN at the Treasurer's Office, Castlereagh-street, where Seats may be Booked for
BOXING NIGHT.
Acting Manager, Mr. R. P. KENNA.

ASK your Grocer for WADE'S CORN FLOUR, and don't take any substitute; it is the best.

CRITERION THEATRE.
Under the Direction of Mr. ROBERT BROUGH.
Representative, Mr. Mayne; Agent, Mr. Hamilton.
BOX PLAN ARRANGEMENTS.
TO-MORROW (BOXING DAY) being a General Holiday, the BOX PLAN will be on View AT THE THEATRE OFFICE FROM 10 a.m.
BOXING NIGHT, DECEMBER 26.
Return to Sydney, for a Limited Number of Nights, of the
BROUGH COMEDY COMPANY
BROUGH COMEDY COMPANY
BROUGH COMEDY COMPANY.
Mr. BROUGH.
Mr. Titheradge. — Mr. Edward Ferris (his first appearance in Australia).
Mr. H. R. Roberts (his first appearance with this Company). — Mr. Percy Ward (his first appearance with this Company).
Mr. Carey. — Mr. Majeroni.
Mr. M'Intyre. — Mr. Hardy.
Mrs. BROUGH.
Miss Temple
Miss Watt Tanner
Miss Hardy — Miss Hope Mayne (her first appearance).
TO-MORROW, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 26,
First Production in Sydney of the Enormously Successful Eccentric Comedy in four acts,
NANCY & CO.
NANCY & CO.
NANCY & CO.
Adapted from the German by Augustin Daly.
As played for the past five years by "Daly's Company of Comedians" with the utmost success at Daly's Theatres in New York and London.
Prices: 5s, 3s, 2s, 1s.
Doors, 7.30; Curtain, 8; Carriages, 10.30.
Early Door, 7.15, One Shilling extra.
Children in arms NOT admitted.

FERN BAY, BOXING DAY.
PARRAMATTA RIVER.
FERN BAY. The Only Strictly Select Holiday Resort in Sydney. The Best Place to Spend an Enjoyable Day and where the Rowdy Element is Positively Excluded.
FERN BAY. SPACIOUS NEW PAVILION. Accommodation for Thousands.
DANCING, DANCING.
Lane's String Band.
FERN BAY. Amusements for Young and Old Free. Merry-go-Round, Donkey Rides, Swings, &c., Free, Free.
SPECIAL STEAMERS
FERN BAY. from foot of King-street every half hour. No Waiting, and all Saloon Boats.
Admission, Steamer, Grounds, Pavilion, &c., 1s 3d; children free.
FERN BAY. All Amusements on the Grounds Free. Programme and Time Tables Strictly Adhered to.
FERN BAY. Visitors to Sydney should not fail to see these Charming Grounds.
Usual Dance in the Evening till 10.30.
Personal attention to everything by the Proprietor.
E. J. LANE.
Telephone, 41 Hunter's Hill.

JENOLAN CAVES.—The Superior Line of COACHES start from Cooper's Hotel, Mt. Victoria; 2/8 return.

SEA BATHS.—Early Train, Sunday morning. Brighton Baths, Lady Robinson's Beach.

GRAND Oddfellows' Hall, Newtown.—Gardiner's Holiday SOCIALS, Boxing and New Year Nights, 2s.

GILBEY'S DRY GIN. Better than Whisky this Hot Weather.

Poultry, Dogs, &c.

MOCKING BIRDS, India Black Miner's Nightingales, Bulfin., Thrushes, Mex. Parrots, Ducks. 37 Bent-st.

ENGLISH Bullfinches, just arrived, cheap. Janson, Bird Dealer, 45 Pitt-st. Tele., 2003.

Business Announcements.

A. M.P. LIFE OFFICE.—Secure Bonus for 1896. J. B. Youdale, agent, 108 Pitt-st., opp. G.P.O. Tel., 2179.

Hotels.

BLUE MOUNTAINS, Springwood.—First-class ACCOMMODATION, 30s per week; private tables, 2 guineas. Visitors driven out three times a week free of charge. D. MUTCH, Royal Hotel.

3500ft. ABOVE THE SEA.
THE IVANHOE, BLACKHEATH.
A Fashionable Resort.
Terms by arrangement.

VISITORS FROM THE COUNTRY.—The best place to spend Xmas Holidays is the CLARENDON HOTEL, facing the Ocean Beach, at Manly. Comfortable roomy apartments, with every home comfort and convenience, at moderate terms.
Mrs. KILMINSTER.

Apartments, Board and Residence.

A. A.—A large, lofty, pleasant ROOM, unfurnished, nice view, convenient. 176 William-st.

BLACKHEATH.—Victoria House, nr. stn.—Superior Board and Resid., every atten. Mrs. Walker, prop.

BLACKHEATH.—Blue Mountain Villa, sup. private Boarding Estab., nr. stn.; red. terms. Mrs. Butts.

BOARD and Residence, every home comfort. Mrs. Hamlyn, No. 4 St. Mary's-terrace, facing Domain.

CLEVELAND-ST., Redfern, 331.—Furnished ROOMS to LET, single or double, 1 min. from stn. Mrs. Wright.

CONVALESCENT HOME, ORANGE.
Corner Summer and Hill streets.
Mrs. PARKER (late of Molong) begs to intimate to her numerous friends and the public generally that she will OPEN the above Residence JANUARY 1st, 1897, replete with every convenience for the comfort of Invalids, and trusts by strict attention and civility to merit a share of their patronage, and also that of visitors from various parts.
Also VACANCIES for PERMANENT BOARDERS.
Mrs. Parker holds testimonials from the medical staff of Molong and Orange.
Please note above address.

KATOOMBA.—84, Cyree, Katoomba-st., opp. Carrington.—Vacancies fm. 30s wk., 6s day. Mrs. Kennedy.

KATOOMBA, BLUE MOUNTAINS.
BALMORAL HOUSE.
First-class ACCOMMODATION for Visitors.
Manager.

LADY Visitors.—Superior Home, 15s weekly, 3s 6d day; D. and S. Rooms. 270 Victoria-st., Darlinghurst.

LAWSON COFFEE PALACE, Blue Mountains, noted for Comfort, High-class Cuisine, central for all sights, baths, tennis, swings, &c. Bridal Apartments a speciality, modern and up to date. Send for circular. C. WHITE.

MACQUARIE-ST. N., 177.—Vacant, a Single and D. Room, good table, terms mod., opp. Palace Gardens.

GENTLEMAN requires superior BOARD and Residence in a private family where no other boarders are kept. Address
Bachelor, Herald Office.

WANTED, a HOME for a boy 12½ years old. No premium. Apply W. F., No. 52 Enmore-rd.

Houses, Land, &c., Wanted.

IF you want to Buy, Sell, or Rent Property go to R. C. V. Broughton, auctioneer and valuator, 250 Pitt-st.

To Let.

ABERCROMBIE-ST., Redfern.—No. 208, 6 rs., kit., l., bath, &c., just renovated, rent 20s. Key 270.

ASHFIELD.—Furn. VILLA, 8 rooms, kitchen, &c., stable, &c., 32s 6d. E. C. Dunn, 16 Elizabeth-st.

CHEAPEST HOUSE to LET in Sydney. 112 Flinders-st., Moore Park.

CLARA-TERRACE, 518 Crown-st., S.H., new, done up, 9 rooms, bath, laundry, drying ground, reduced to 21s.

COMMODIOUS and well-lighted OFFICES to LET, on second and third floors, fronting Pitt-street, near General Post Office, suitable for solicitors or architects; moderate rent.
Apply J. BULLEN,
Herald Office, Hunter-street.

GROCERY STORES, established 30 years, to LET, corner Queen and Moncur sts., Woollahra.

COUNTRY VISITORS
are reminded that
HORDERN'S IS IN PITT-ST.
And they send goods FREE PER RAIL OR PARCELS POST to any part of N. S. W.
We extend a cordial invitation to all visitors to call and interview us RE FUTURE ORDERS and their PROMPT DESPATCH; also to leave their measures with our Tailor or Dressmaker.
OUR ESTABLISHMENT
IS CLOSED TO-DAY.
We have much pleasure in thanking our Customers for their past favours, and beg to wish them the
COMPLIMENTS OF THE SEASON.
HORDERN BROTHERS,
203, 205, 207, 209, 211
PITT-STREET (ONLY),
SYDNEY,
NEAR THE GENERAL POST OFFICE.

To Let.

FURNISHED HOUSE.—1 Stella-terrace, Spring-street, off Oxford-street, this side of Tea Gardens, rent reduced (30s), parlour, dining, bath, kitchen, washhouse, and 2 bed-rooms, gas, sewerage, and every convenience, piano, linen, clean and comfortable, highly respectable. Immediate pos. NATHAN HERMAN, 93 Flinders-st., M. P.; 9 W'd-st.

GRAND family Residence, 137 Dowling-st., nr. Wm.-st., splen. ord., 9 rms., ev. mod. conv., large yd., rnt. 25s.

HURSTVILLE.—Newly-built COTTAGE, 5 r'ms, ev. convenience, 12s. Key Mr. Crane, Kingsgrove-rd.

NEW Cottage, brick and cement, Denison-rd. and Hill-st., Petersham, 5 large rooms, bath, laundry, &c., 11s.

PADDINGTON.—To LET, large COTTAGE, 8 rooms and offices, garden, &c. 63 Paddington-st.

PASTRYCOOK'S SHOP, Bakery, Dwelling, tram terminus, Balmain, best position. Brodie, Darling-st.

TO LET, WHOLE of FIRST FLOOR, 2 Bridge-st.; very low rental. C. Bath and Co., 4 Bridge-st.

TO WAREHOUSEMEN.—Commodious FIRST FLOOR to LET, 3 Wynyard-street; good entrance, with lift at rear.
Apply on premises.

TO LET, OFFICES Nos. 17 and 18 with strong-room, on second floor, ELDON-CHAMBERS, 92 Pitt-street, suit solicitor or accountant; moderate rent.
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Herald Office.

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A PAPER devoted to my trade or business. Ten-See Standard News Co., Sussex and Erskine sts.

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Ladies are instructed in all branches of Dress and Cloak Making, and made competent to fill first-class positions. Send for circular.
84 NEWTOWN-ROAD, opposite University.

BRUSHMAKERS.—Sydney Industrial Blind Inst., William-street.—Wanted, a BRUSHMAKER, as instructor; must be good all-round tradesman, &c. Applications received to January 7th, 1897.
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Medical PRACTICE; surgery centrally situated; established nearly three years; income about £1400; appointments, £60, one month introduction.
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F. H. FAULDING and CO., Perth.

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MEDICAL.—For SALE, first-class Medical Practice, Brisbane. Ap. Wm. Morse, solicitor, Queen-st., Bris.

NOTICE.
APPLICATIONS will be received at the offices of the Great Cobar Copper-mining Syndicate on or before SATURDAY, 31st January, 1897, for the POSITION of MEDICAL OFFICER to the Mine Employees. Medical fees amount about £620 per annum.
Agreement may be seen at the Mines Office, Cobar; or at Mr. LEONARD DODDS', 131 Pitt-street, Sydney.
Applications to be endorsed "Applications for Mine Medical Officership," and addressed to
The Accountant,
Great Cobar Copper Mine, Cobar.
None but duly qualified men need apply.

PARTNER wanted, Half-share in Established Stock and Station Agency, country, good district, good connection, first-class references given and expected. Price £300; principals only. Address Stock and Station, Herald.

TO BELLOWS-MAKERS.—Wanted, Blacksmith's Bellows repaired. Apply H. M'Callum, Mittagong.

TO PARENTS, &c.—Vacancies for Pupils, Bee, Poultry, Vine, and Fruit Culture; prem. req. Bee, Glenfield.

WEST AUSTRALIA.—Gentleman shortly returning will undertake any Commissions. Rex, Herald.

WESTLAND COUNTY HOSPITAL.
Wanted, for the above institution, a thoroughly qualified SURGEON SUPERINTENDENT, to take charge from 1st February, 1897; salary, £250 per annum, with right of private practice. The hospital is one of about 80 beds. Applications, with certificates of competency, &c., must be in my hands not later than 7 p.m. 20th January, 1897.
DAVID WILSON, Secretary,
Westland County Hospital, N. Z.

Situations Wanted.

BY experienced person as General, also Boy, 14, assist yard or shop, refs. A. B., Rookwood P.O.

Servants Wanted.

ADVICE and MEDICINE 2s 6d.—Dr. AGASSIZ a Legally-qualified Medical Practitioner and Surgeon, registered in Great Britain and by the Medical Board of N.S.W., sees patients daily, 683 Geo.-st., op. Goulburn-st.

RESPECTABLE sober old Lady as Housekeeper. Call Jersey's Hotel, cor. Park and C'reagh sts., 10 to-mor.

WANTED, a smart COOK; good wages. 341 George-st. North.

WANTED, a YARDMAN. Victoria Coffee Palace, 208 Pitt-st.

WANTED, respectable ladylike Person as Working HOUSEKEEPER to gentleman with 3 children, 8 to 11 years, comfortable home, references required.
RUSSELL, Herald Office.

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While every care is exercised, the proprietors do not hold themselves responsible for non-insertion of advertisements through accident or otherwise; and they reserve to themselves the right of omitting advertisements received and paid for in the usual course of business if they appear to be objectionable.
For the convenience of advertisers, replies to advertisements may be sent to the Herald Office, Hunter-street; also to the Branch Office, King-street; but the proprietors do not accept any responsibility in this respect.
Advertisements are classified as far as possible for the convenience of readers. Advertisers will oblige by indicating, in the first line of the manuscript or order, under which particular heading the advertisement should appear. While every care is taken in classification, no responsibility is accepted.
All advertisements under six lines will be charged as to advertiser's account if booked.
Advertisers in the country can remit payment by Cheque, Money Order, Postal Notes, or Postage Stamps.
Births, Deaths, and Marriages, 3s each insertion. This includes publication in the "Sydney Mail."
Notices of BIRTHS and DEATHS cannot be inserted in this journal unless endorsed with the name and address of the person by whom they are sent.
Notices of MARRIAGES cannot be inserted unless certified as correct by the officiating Minister or Registrar.
This rule is rendered necessary in consequence of false and malicious notices having been sent for publication for the purpose of annoying respectable persons.
IN MEMORIAM advertisements and RETURN THANKS, 3s each insertion.
The Pillar Box at Redfern Railway Station for receipt of advertisements and communications is cleared every evening at 8.30, 9.30, and 10.30.

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